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• Emm Gryner And JP Hoe @
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21 BEST OF EDMONTON

The results of SEE's 14th annual readers' poll are in, and you might be surprised by who came out on top.

PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON

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The Cream Rises To The Top

notes from the editors

This week, SEE welcomes freelancer **Jonn Kmech** to the Front section with his look at Post No Bills, Post Pretty Art, a new art project that hopes to liven up the dilapidated Mayfair Hotel on Jasper Avenue.

Speaking of good ideas for the downtown core, staff writer **Andrew Paul** asks Edmonton's skateboard community what they think of the idea of building a new skatepark be-

hind Stanley Milner Library.

In film, **Luke De Smet** finds out whether Atom Egoyan's new film *Adoration* restored the Canadian auteur to his previous cinematic glory. And in music, **Renato Pagnani** goes behind the scenes of Mahogany Public's new album and discovers the only thing harder than turning live interviews into song lyrics is getting the album's huge roster of contributors in one place.

Unfortunately, there is also sad news in this week's issue as columnists **Scott Lingley** and **Fish Griwkowsky** both pay tribute to Gilbert Bouchard, the hard-working arts writer (and former SEE contributor) whose death came to light this week.

And finally: you picked them, and we printed them. Check out our 14th annual Best of Edmonton readers' poll to see who tickled your fancy.

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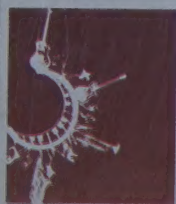
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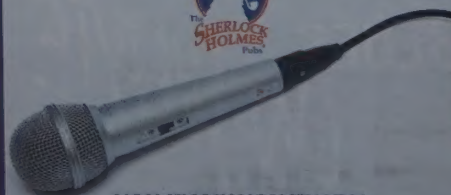
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Il Divo, Rexall Place, May 25

MAY 24

discussion | **FORUM ON TRANSGENDER ISSUES** The provincial government is cutting funding to gender reassignment surgery. It's a confusing, emotional issue, but here's a good place to get the scoop. Unitarian Church of Edmonton, 6:30 p.m.

MAY 25

music | **IL DIVO** Isn't it a little presumptuous to name your singing group after the Italian word for "celebrity"? Rexall Place, 7:30 p.m.

MAY 26

film | **YOU NEVER BIKE ALONE** If those giant 20-person cycling machines rolling around downtown have piqued your curiosity, here's a documentary all about the Critical Mass movement. Edmonton Bicycle Commuters' Society, 7 p.m.

MAY 27

theatre | **FOOTLIGHT FESTIVAL** Eleven days of what the Walterdale Theatre does best. Namely theatre -- including workshops and performances from some of Edmonton's greatest thespians. Walterdale Playhouse, 7 p.m.

MAY 28

manhunting | **AN EVENING WITH DOG THE BOUNTY HUNTER** If you have any warrants out for your arrest, we recommend skipping this one. River Cree Resort and Casino, 7:30 p.m.

MAY 29

theatre | **HEY LADIES!** You won't find a lifestyle show like this on television; you have to experience the hilarity and mayhem in person. Roxy Theatre, 8 p.m.

MAY 30

exhibit | **ALBERTA VISTAS** Artists Linda O'Neill and Hilary Prince sure have an eye for landscapes. Scott Gallery.

MAY 31

comedy | **JEFF FOXWORTHY** If you wish Jeff Foxworthy was your dad, you might be a redneck. Rexall Place, 8 p.m.

JUNE 1

cycling | **BIKE MONTH PROCLAMATION** What better way to kick off Bike Month than by hobnobbing with government officials over pedal-powered smoothies? City Hall, 12 p.m.

JUNE 2

lecture | **PROMOTING INNOVATION & CREATIVITY** Hang out with the Wayne Gretzky of aerospace design as he speaks about what is needed to foster public access to outer space. Shaw Conference Centre, 5:30 p.m.

JUNE 3

music | **JOHN FOGERTY** The biggest ego from the swamp takes the stage at Rexall Place at 7 p.m.

JUNE 4

lecture | **IMAGE AND IMAGINATION IN EARLY JAPANESE PHOTOGRAPHS** Allen Hockley of Dartmouth University wants to explain how early 19th-century Japanese photos shaped the west's view of Japanese culture. We say go for it. Art Gallery of Alberta, 7 p.m.



John Fogerty, Rexall Place, June 3

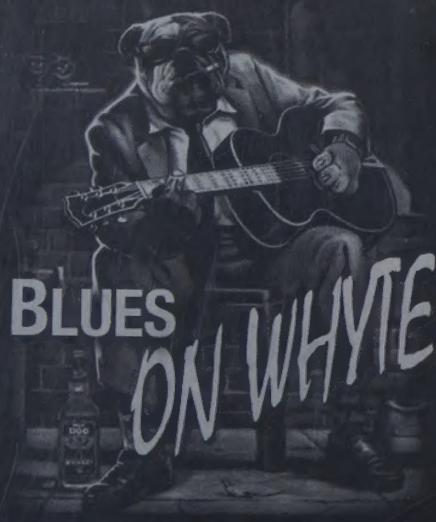
theatre | May 21



EUGENE IONESCO HAD SEVERAL ENDINGS IN MIND FOR THIS PLAY ABOUT A DINNER PARTY GONE WRONG. ONE OF THEM EVEN INCLUDED **SHOOTING THE AUDIENCE WITH A MACHINE GUN**. THAT'S THEATRE OF THE ABSURD FOR YOU!

see magazine's two-week forecast of events in edmonton

listings: the front pg 15 | music pg 41 | film caps pg 47 | arts pg 53



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NEWS FEATURE • FEDERAL STIMULUS • BY ANGELA BRUNSCHOT (1,000 words)

Trying Not To Look A Gift Horse In The Mouth

MILLIONS IN FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS MONEY IS FLOWING TO EDMONTON, BUT ARE THEY DOING IT RIGHT?

Building an LRT line to the north-east may have looked like the fastest way to pump a massive amount of money into the Edmonton economy, but some experts remain concerned about the city's future – and local jobs – when the federal government's one-time stimulus plan runs out.

“Governments have become kind of like philanthropists,” says Armine Yalnizyan, an economist with the independent Ottawa-based non-profit Centre for Policy Alternatives. “They want to announce every last gift of money they give... But that's our money.”

She says regular funding, instead of piecemeal cash injections from both federal and provincial governments, would allow cities to better plan their expansions.

Edmonton will receive \$100 million for an LRT extension northeast to the Gorman area and other LRT upgrades from the federal government. (The province also kicked in another third of the cost, and the city must come up with the final \$100 million for the \$300 million projects.)

The Gorman extension doesn't have approval from the city yet for the final third, but approval is expected by the end of May. The design work could be completed by the fall, and the city could start hiring a contractor by early 2010, according to the city. The terms of the funding require that the projects be completed by March 31, 2011.

Gorman wasn't the city's first choice for funding, says Brian Latte, the city's manager of transportation planning. He would have preferred to move forward with the extension to NAIT, which is currently the city's top priority in LRT expansion. Not that Latte is complaining.

“You don't bite the hand that feeds you,” he says. “You want to make the best of your opportunities.”

Building out to Gorman before the area is developed allows the city to build properly around the LRT line, rather appropriating property and trying to make the LRT fit into an established neighbourhood.

Still, he will say that he'd prefer long-term funding for Edmonton's LRT projects over the one-time announcements that are currently the norm. Unstable funding can mean

that the city ramps up its project planning, only to lose contractors once the money runs out.

“When you get these guys in doing this scale of work,” he says, “there's a lot of momentum that goes with it. That's one of the big reasons we want to keep LRT going. Once LRT is finished next year to Century Place, we don't want to have to scale down and then ramp up again for the other lines. A secure funding source is very important.”

Yalnizyan and the City of Edmonton certainly aren't the only ones asking for more stable funding. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities, a national group that advocates on behalf of cities, has called on the federal government for years to provide dependable, continuous funding for cities to build needed infrastructure such as public transit. Liberal MLA Laurie Blakeman also recently called on Alberta to provide stable funding to cities through a private member's bill, which was rejected by the Progressive Conservative government.

Although Latte certainly appreciates the funding for LRT expansion to Gorman, funding one project doesn't solve Edmonton's overall infrastructure needs.

“No matter what line we go at, we can't do it alone,” he says. “We need

help from the province and the federal government.” The city has plans for an LRT line west to Lewis Estates, as well as south to Millwoods, in addition to the current plans for the NAIT and Gorman extensions to the northeast, and the south line to Century Park.

Roger Dootson is the vice-president for PCL Construction Management Inc., as well as the senior vice-chair for the Alberta Construction Association. PCL receives many of its construction contracts from the city, including part of the new south LRT line as well as other civil and commercial projects. He was very glad to hear that the federal government was putting money into infrastructure when the budget came out in January. Edmonton and Calgary continue to grow, and have huge infrastructure needs. But he also has concerns about the timing.

“We would like to see them use the federal stimulus money on projects that are ready to go, that are designed and ready to go out to tender,” he says, “rather than waiting a year or two for them to be designed and then put the money out. There's just too much lag. Now is a great time to buy construction. Prices have come down. If they wait too long, it's likely the prices will go up again.”

While Dootson expects 2009 to

continue to be rough for contractors in his sector, he expects a turnaround in 2010 and anticipates PCL will be very busy by 2011. The longer the federal government waits to announce the rest of the projects, and the longer it takes for the cities to set up the projects, he says, the closer the city comes to paying high material and labour costs again. (During Alberta's recent boom, steel prices were the highest in a generation. Oil was also high at more than \$100 a barrel, and labour costs were tough the roof. At the time, the city also had trouble attracting contractors to bid on city projects, because there was so much construction work being done.)

“Someday oil is going to turn back around,” Dootson says, “and a lot of these upgraders and projects from Fort McMurray that have been put on hold or slowed down are going to cycle up again, and we will be back to where we were three or four years ago, with shortages in manpower and materials. It would be nice to even that out.”

Yalnizyan agrees that a speedy ramp-up for construction projects is necessary, not only to keep people working and businesses afloat, but also to avoid labour costs later.

“There is going to be a labour crunch,” she says. “When we come

to the other side of this, there are going to be people retiring. We need to prepare for the known shortages coming in education and health-care.... None of that long-term vision is built into the stimulus package.”

The federal budget was a missed opportunity as far as Yalnizyan is concerned. She objects to the tax incentives for home renovations and patio decks. She would have preferred to see money transferred from the federal government to provinces working on increasing the number of doctors and nurses in their hospitals, or expanding child care programs. Spending on those social programs actually circulates through the local economy more than building projects, she says, and can provide more economic stimulation. Besides, these long-term social investments prevent expenses down the road. “It has a long shadow,” she says. “It's not just stimulus.”

But if a quick hit of cash is what the federal government is currently offering, no city is turning it away. Latte was very clear that Edmonton welcomes the provincial and federal help in building Gorman.

“The city is happy to receive any funding,” he says. “We are working as fast as we can, and the important thing is that the funding continues to come.”



FEATURE • SKATEPARKS • BY ANDREW PAUL | 804 words

A New Skateboard Park Downtown?

WHILE CITY COUNCIL MULLS THE PROJECT, LOCAL SKATERS REQUEST A SIMPLE, MULTIUSE SPACE

What's awesome about skateboarding is the feeling you get while watching a flock of pigeons eat bits of your flesh off the sidewalk after you wipe out on a staircase.

What's not awesome about skateboarding is when a police officer informs you that you're being fined for using public space.

The conflict between skateboarders and property owners, security guards and police has existed since skateboarding's inception in the early 1970s. What the whole debate boils down to is that skateboarders want to skate, and property owners don't want their benches, handrails, and ledges vandalized, or to be held liable for personal injury on their premises should a skater bail and leave pigeon food smeared on their sidewalk blocks. Nowhere else in the city is this conflict more apparent than downtown.

"You get kicked out of a lot of spots," says Cory Forster, manager of the Whyte Avenue skateboard shop Plush. "Especially Churchill Square, where the cops hassle you and threaten to give you tickets and stuff. So that kind of sucks."

Ben Miller, a sales associate from FS Skate and Snow, agrees. "Skating downtown right now is sketchy," he

says. "Between the crackheads, cops, and other assholes, it's pretty hit-or-miss."

The downtown skate scene sounds grim, but skateboarders and the community at large may be about to catch a break. Mayor Stephen Mandel has requested a report on the feasibility of building a skatepark downtown — something the skate community has been wanting for years.

Ward 4 city councillor Ben Henderson also thinks the idea is pretty sweet. "It's crazy to me," he says, "with Winston Churchill Square and other places like that, that are heavily used at certain times, but at other times they're just not getting used at all. To have people who are keen and interested in using places like that and saying, 'No you're not allowed' is nonsense."

The proposed park would be built in the plaza between the Stanley A. Milner Library and the Westin Hotel. The idea came out of a think tank session Henderson had with the Downtown Business Association. Henderson wound up sitting at the same table as Edmonton Public Library director Linda Cook, and the idea to discover a better use for the plaza arose.

Henderson believes the plaza area is a good opportunity to help make the downtown core a more attractive place for young families to raise children instead of moving out to the suburbs.



Half Pipe Dream | Nate Syska and Ben Miller smile at the prospect of a new skatepark downtown. PHOTO BY ANDREW PAUL

Initially, Henderson offered up the idea of building a playground in the space and the two decided to look into the matter. "Linda said she'd explore things on her end and I would explore things on my end," he says, "and that's where we are right now."

Though the initial idea was to build a playground, Henderson says a skatepark is definitely something that could also work in that space. Which leaves the door wide open for possibilities and the skateboard community has a few ideas of what the new park should look like. And city council and taxpayers might like what they have to say.

"I think it should just be nice and mellow," says Darcy Watson, who also works at Plush. "A few benches,

a couple of flatbars and flatboxes. But definitely some benches that people can sit on and we can still skate on would be nice. Just real simple — we don't need anything complex."

Miller and Forster echo Watson's sentiments; what many skaters want, they say, are spots that resemble natural street obstacles such as benches, ledges, staircases, and handrailings. That's what they'd be skating on downtown anyway, if it weren't for the hassle from the police and business owners' attempts to skateproof their property.

"We've all seen those 'little hater things,' as Nate Syska from FS Skate and Snow calls them — little metal nubs and bars that property owners weld to anything that a skater might

be tempted to grind or slide on. Sure, it keeps the benches and ledges from getting scratched up by skateboarders, but the aesthetic cost is high. Who likes sitting on a bench with a metal nub shoved up their ass, Syska asks?

The desire for natural obstacles means the space could work as a multipurpose area resembling what much of downtown looks like already.

However, no decisions will be made until the report is made available. As to when that might be, Henderson says skaters and property owners will have to continue to butt heads for a while.

"We don't do anything at the city quickly, I'm afraid," he says.

FEATURE • GRAFFITI • BY JON KMECH | 544 words

Creating Lively Art In The City's Dead Spaces

POST NO BILLS, POST PRETTY ART PROJECT BRIGHTENS UP THE MAYFAIR HOTEL — WITHOUT PERMISSION

Anyone who frequents downtown Edmonton is accustomed by now to passing the dilapidated Mayfair Hotel on the corner of 108th Street and Jasper Avenue. Either that, or they don't notice it at all, treating it like a crumbling ghost, a structural apparition that has been closed off and veiled in plywood.

It's exactly this perspective that Eric Cheung desires to change. Where others may see an eyesore, he sees a canvas.

"I wanted to create an urban moment," Cheung says.

The project, called Post No Bills, Post Pretty Art, takes the form of several graffiti murals that Cheung has added to the boards now covering the windows of the hotel. It's being developed by ATAW, a group of three "urban interventionists," of which Cheung is a member. Currently operating in Edmonton, To-

ronto, and London, Ont., the collective seeks to create a more dynamic urban atmosphere through independent street art.

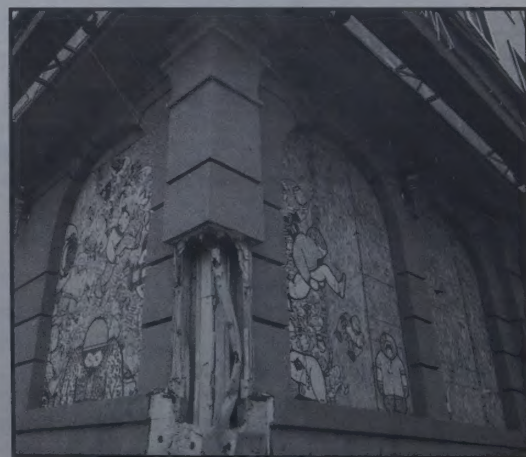
"ATAW [stands for] any time, anywhere. Or if you Google it, it's supposedly American Truckers at War," laughs the soft-spoken Cheung, sporting a white shirt covered in flecks of multi-coloured paint. "I come from primarily an urban design background — that's where my primary motivation comes from. To see a derelict building like that, it's appalling. It's dead space."

Educated in architecture in Halifax before becoming interested in urban design during his time in Toronto and London, the Edmonton native received inspiration from another local temporary urban art project called Make It Not Suck, which had its first outing in 2007. Remnants of several of the pieces from subsequent years can still be seen along the walkway across the street from the Mayfair, where Cheung is now continuing his work.

But the urban interventionist

didn't get permission to put the art up, which technically qualifies it as illegal graffiti, according to Don Belanger, the program manager for Capital City Cleanup which deals with the city's graffiti cleanup. "The city has no issues if the owner's permission was obtained by the artist because then it's street art," Belanger says. "As long as it's not offensive or anything, then go for it. But you need that permission."

But even if it may be destined for removal, Cheung explains the work is meant to be temporary and transitory, as his ultimate vision will see other local artists adding to what he's initiated. "The work will come down eventually, either by authority or just falling apart," he says, "but it creates a vibrancy or momentum, that artists will just keep going up to the boards and creating new pieces. That's the ideal urban experiment, and I think it's a good one [for] Edmonton. There's always a concern that there's not enough of an arts scene or that it's not physical enough, so this is an opportunity



Spicing Up Construction Sites | Post No Bills, Post Pretty Art aims to beautify the Mayfair Hotel. PHOTO BY ANDREW PAUL

for that to happen. Whether or not other people wish to take this up is the challenge."

And if Cheung gets his way, The Mayfair may soon look more like a cultural mosaic than a forgot-

ten landmark. "[The art is] simply about an experience," Cheung says. "Sure, you might be walking by there and see it for two seconds, but it's there. It's something better than a blank wall."

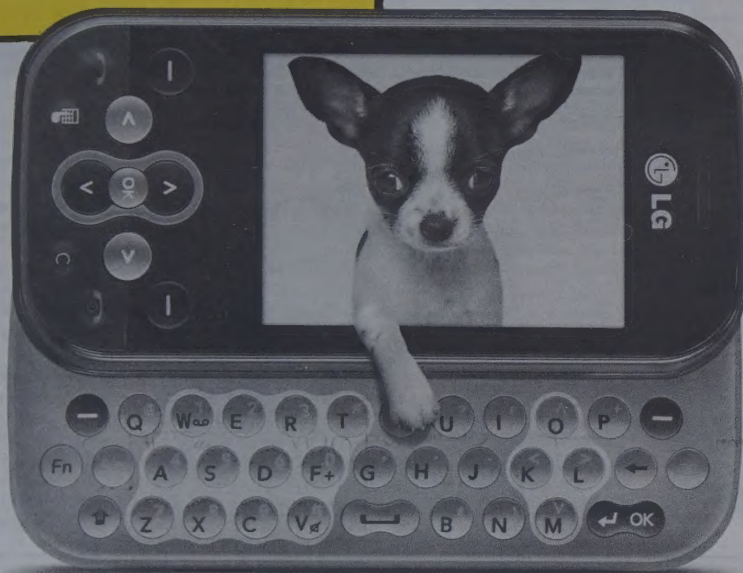
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NEWS BRIEF • BY MACKENZIE SINCLAIR

EDMONTON • PUBLIC TRANSIT ARE LOWER FLOORS IN THE FUTURE FOR LRT RIDERS?

A popular LRT design used in Europe was proposed as the best way to develop future LRT transit at a city presentation last week at MacEwan College.

Low-floor LRT, which is used in Dublin, Ireland, and Lyon, France, is the best way to achieve a more transit-friendly city in a cost-effective and efficient way, according to independent transport adviser Steer Davies Gleave.

"Edmonton is a vibrant, livable city where LRT is more and more relevant," says Allan Jones, a representative of Steer Davies Gleave.

Currently, Edmonton uses a high-floor LRT, which carries most of its mechanical equipment under the floor and requires raised platforms for passengers to board the trains. Low-floor LRT trains have most of their equipment on the roof, which would allow the city to build boarding platforms almost as low as the common sidewalk.

The advantages of this technology are lower costs because the boarding platforms are much easier to build, can be integrated with sidewalks in order to provide more direct connections to people and places, and will reduce station infrastructure, allowing a more urban operational style. However, not everyone believes this will save money.

"A lot of the plans have it running in the roadways [which might mean] increased maintenance costs," says Brendan Van Alstine, a member of Transit Riders' Union of Edmonton (TRUE). "That might end up making some of the savings they have building it negligible."

The city's long-term plan is to build six LRT network lines extending to the north-west, northeast, east, southeast, south, and west ends of the city using low-floor LRT. However, the areas currently with high-floor LRT will most likely remain the same.

"This is not a stand-alone plan," says Rhonda Toohey, general supervisor of strategic planning with the city. "It's supported by a complement of other plans and we need to bring them all together if we're really going to try and create communities."

The city plans to also keep the functioning high-floor LRT because it would be too expensive and time-consuming to convert the city's entire LRT line.

The difficult part now is to figure out how to combine the two technologies. "They're operated around the world in this fashion," Toohey says. "How we operate them in Edmonton is yet to be determined."

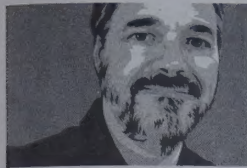
Edmonton resident Bruce Jakeway believes Edmonton's increasing population makes an LRT system of this sort vital to the city's progress. "If the city is gonna go to double the size, triple the size, we have to do something about it," he says. "The road infrastructure is not going to support the increase of traffic."

Ruth Grenville, communications officer for the city's transportation planning branch, says creating this large, long-term plan opens a wide range of opportunities. "We're actually at a phase where people can really decide what the infrastructure is like and where these routes are going," she says. "It's a really unique opportunity."



COMMENTARY • PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS | 864 words

The Fine Art Of Stepping In Cowpatties



**OUTSIDE POLITICS MAURICE TOUGAS
WITH A HUGE MAJORITY,
YOU'D THINK STELMACH
WOULD CRUISE THROUGH HIS
FIRST TERM. NOT SO MUCH**

Sometimes I despair the stranglehold the Progressive Conservatives have on Alberta will never loosen. Some 38 years after Peter Lougheed ushered in a new era in Alberta politics, the Tories, under the feckless leadership of Ed Stelmach, seem immovable. With just 11 opposition MLAs facing off against an inert block of 72 Tories, all Stelmach has to do is avoid stepping in political cowpatties and he should cruise to another victory two or three years hence.

Incredibly, not only is Stelmach stepping in cowpatties, he's actively putting them in his own path then jumping into them with both feet.

**DESPITE NEAR-UNIVERSAL CONDEMNATION,
THE GOVERNMENT STANDS BY ITS LEGISLATION.
WHY? WHY RAM THOUGH A LAW JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY
SAYS IS BAD NEWS? BECAUSE THEY CAN, THAT'S WHY.**

Let's examine the recent activities of your government-in-perpetuity, starting with Bill 44.

The Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Amendment Act is causing no end of trouble for the government, and the injury is self-inflicted. The amendment enshrines "parental rights" in Alberta's Human Rights Act, which means parents have the right to remove their precious little ones from class if a discussion arises over a delicate matter like religion or sex.

This also means they have the right to lodge a complaint with the Human Rights Commission. Under the School Act, parents already have the right to remove their child from a dirty little class, and the system works well. Now critics worry that enshrining "parental rights" in Alberta's human rights legislation will result in teachers getting hauled into a human rights court to explain their actions. Sure, it's unlikely, but loopholes are put into legislation for a reason.

Why would the government introduce this change? It's widely seen as a sop to the lunatic right-wing fringe of the party, believed to be upset because sexual orientation is now protected under Alberta human rights legislation. If gays are

covered, the argument (apparently) goes, then why not parents? Lindsay Blackett, the tarnished golden boy of the Stelmach government, admitted as much in an interview when he said the changes came about as a result of discussions with government MLAs — not the public, but MLAs.

The amendment has been roundly criticized by just about everyone: politicians, teachers, human rights advocates, former Tory MLAs, most of the media, you name it. Despite near-universal condemnation, though, the government stands by its legislation.

Why? Why ram through a law just about everybody says is bad news? Because they can, that's why. That's the Tory attitude. Blackett was the subject of fawning media coverage when he was appointed to the cabinet — young, urban, the new face of Alberta politics, yada yada. It didn't take long for young Mr. Blackett to become just another puppet of the Tory right wing.

Then there's health care, the perennial Tory bogeyman. Faced with the first budget deficit in years, the Tories have brought the hammer

down, ordering the Royal Alex Hospital (and others soon, to be sure) to cut back on elective surgeries, like

joint replacements, by 15 per cent to bring the numbers more in line with last year's. Imagine how a hobbled senior must feel after being told that their promised hip surgery is being delayed because the government of the richest province in Canada can't afford it right now.

But a few pained seniors are of little concern to Health Minister Ron Liepert and the Tories. They've always been able to count on senior voters, and they're sure that by the next election — and with oil prices recovering, they'll be throwing money at health care in a couple of years — the seniors will be back on board.

Want more? How about the revelations last week by the Alberta Liberals that the mammoth oilsands giants are paying pathetically puny royalties. For example, Suncor paid \$282 million in royalties in the first three months of 2008. This year?

A ludicrous \$8 million, despite producing 30,000 more barrels per day. Canadian Oil Sands Trust, the largest partner in the Syncrude consortium, reported a drop of 97 per cent in royalties, from \$131 million to \$4 million.

MLA Laurie Blakeman about Ticketmaster's monopoly on sales of concert tickets in Alberta and why the government wasn't doing anything about it, Klimchuk said, "The consumer has the power to make choices," indicating her woeful ignorance of ticket-selling in Alberta. As everyone but Klimchuk knows, if you want to buy tickets to a show in Alberta, you have no choice but to use Ticketmaster.

Ignorant and arrogant. Ed Stelmach and his stumblebum cabinet may bring themselves down yet.

Let us pray.

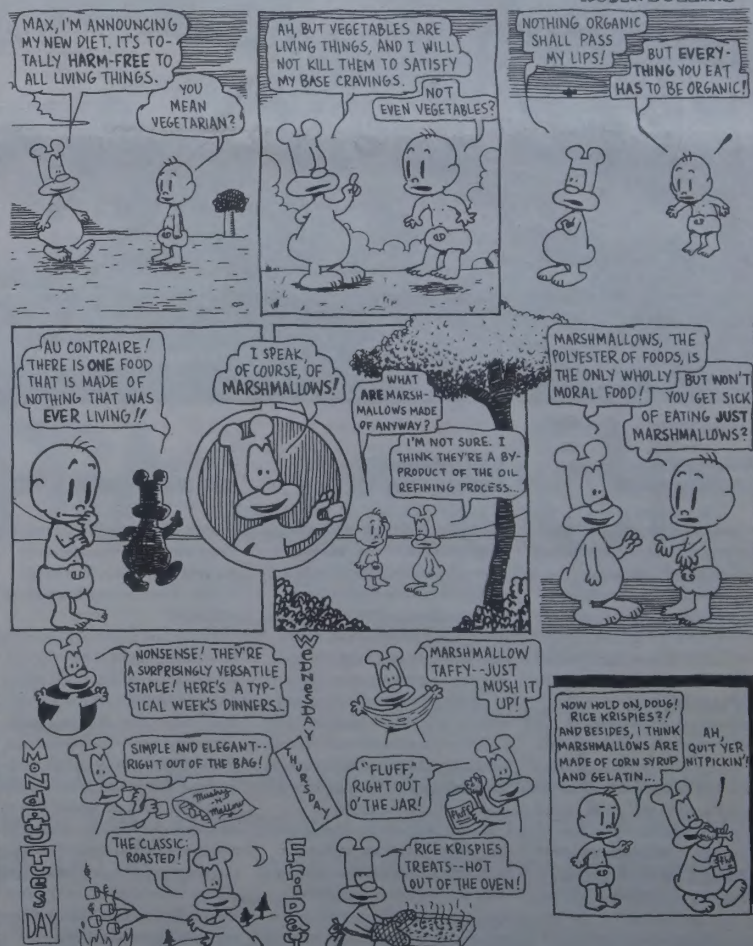
Meanwhile, on a much different

note, I want to acknowledge Deputy Premier Ron Stevens, whose retirement is a major loss to the Stelmach government. In a cabinet populated by unqualified partisans who got cabinet positions by virtue of being Friends of Ed, Stevens was a rarity: a minister who gave honest answers to honest questions, untainted by partisan rhetoric. The Tories need more of his type in government, not fewer. He will be missed.

*Maurice Tougas is the former Liberal MLA for Edmonton-Meadowbank.
mauricetougas@live.com*

TOM THE DANCING BUG

by RUBEN BOLLING



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“THE PROBLEM ISN'T THE TENT. THE PROBLEM IS THAT CAPACITY HERE IS 50 PER CENT OF WHAT IT SHOULD BE.”

—DR. LIONEL DIBDEN OF THE STOLLERY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, ON TREATING CHILDREN IN A TENT, AS QUOTED BY THE EDMONTON JOURNAL



WITNESS

MAY 18, 2009 | 3:09 PM | PHOTO BY BEN LEMPHERS

Two men eye up hotdogs while in line at an inner-city barbecue outside the Boyle Street Community Centre. The giant barbecue grill was designed and donated by NAIT sheet metal students.

OUR COMMENT ON THIS WEEK'S NEWS

EDMONTON • ECONOMY COST OF FOOD AND HOUSING

What's good about a recession? Well, it's supposed to bring down inflation and make housing and food more affordable.

The cost of a booming economy is well known to Edmontonians who struggled during the height of economic activity.

While Statistics Canada recently reported that prices are falling overall, and Edmonton has negative inflation, the national price of food is still increasing. In housing, Edmonton's vacancy rate did increase from 1.5 per cent in 2007 to 2.4 per cent in 2008, but the price of housing remains among the highest in the country, at \$1,034 for a typical two-bedroom apartment. Which means that low-income people, renters with tight monthly budgets for food (who are also more likely to be working insecure jobs) are still getting squeezed in this economy. The federal and provincial governments should watch closely, and provide support for families before they fall into deep poverty.

ALBERTA • HEALTH CARE SLASH NOW, PAY LATER

The Royal Alexandra Hospital was recently forced to reduce its elective surgeries by 15 per cent. The Stollery Children's Hospital treats sick kids in an emergency tent because expansion construction was put on hold as a result of deferred funding in this year's provincial budget. Middle managers are also experiencing a great deal of uncertainty as they apply for their own jobs again. Some face layoffs. Along with the sudden merging of the nine health regions into one superboard, these actions send the wrong message to healthcare professionals working in Alberta and beyond.

When the next boom comes, what family doctor or specialist will relocate their practice to Alberta if they think that in five years the province will begin slashing funding again? The actions of the provincial government are absolutely irresponsible, and could be creating a crisis in healthcare not just for today, but for future generations as well.

WORLD • OBAMA GITMO TRIALS AND TORTURE

Watching the performance of U.S. President Barack Obama has been a rollercoaster ride lately. While he came to power with high expectations, recent decisions are not encouraging.

When he came to office, he declared that Gitmo would be closed. At the end of April, we were encouraged when he said officials from George W. Bush's White House that sanctioned torture would be investigated.

But according to investigative journalist Jeremy Scahill and Democracy Now, the independent national daily news program out of the United States, prisoners at Gitmo are still being beaten by up to five people at a time. Obama is also reinstating the military tribunals for terrorist suspects held in Gitmo, with only some changes to make the trials more fair. These decisions could constitute a very serious problem with Obama.

You can read the interview with Scahill at democracynow.org.

BY THE NUMBERS

OUR VISITORS
TRAVELERS TO CANADA, BY COUNTRY (MARCH 2009)
SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA



3,946,000
UNITED STATES



63,000
UNITED KINGDOM



34,000
FRANCE



27,000
GERMANY



22,000
MEXICO



COMMENTARY • OBITUARY | 1,013 words

A Sad Farewell To A Passionate Arts Booster



MY TOWN SCOTT LINGLEY
FROM RADIO ACTIVE TO THE ARTERY, THE ABSENCE OF GILBERT BOUCHARD IS KEENLY FELT IN EDMONTON

I know our minds are supposed to be on the Best of Edmonton this week, but it's hard not to think about the fact that this has been the Worst Spring Ever, not just because of the persistently gloomy weather that gives us to think winter may never completely cease in time for it to start up again next September, but because of its sad human toll.

This past weekend our worst fears were confirmed about Gilbert Bouchard, who went missing on April 20. Gilbert was a great friend to and booster of Edmonton's arts community, he was the most reliable and collegial contributor an editor ever had, and on a personal level he was an incredibly good-natured and gracious person. And as with singer/

songwriter/comedian Joe Bird, who passed away in March and would have turned 42 on May 17, the news of Gilbert's death feels not just like a tragedy, but a stroke of cosmic injustice. Both people were deeply involved in the cultural life of their city; both touched a lot of lives. May be we even took it for granted that we would always have them around.

For years, I was one of Gilbert's most devoted readers. As a *SEE* editor, I relied heavily on his expertise and apparent inability to say no to any assignment in the fields of theatre, books, visual arts, food, music, film, poetry, or whatever else needed doing to make my life easier. Gilbert probably always had, in the two-plus decades he worked as a freelance writer and broadcaster, 10 or more editors simultaneously dependent on his resolute professionalism and boundless passion for creativity in virtually every medium. When Gilbert told you, "I can take care of that for you," it meant you didn't have to worry about that particular detail any more. In fact, it was an unprecedented missed deadline that alerted his peers to Gilbert's disappearance last month.

I can't begin to imagine how hectic this must have made his worklife,

especially considering the extensive homework Gilbert did just to stay abreast of the arts scenes he covered. My own freelance experience suggests he must have lived in a pressure cooker of constant deadlines. I say nothing of the standards he set for himself and the expectations he created amongst the city's arts workers, who must have come to see him as one of their own. Even so, Gilbert usually came by my office to pitch ideas for arts coverage rather than wait for the inevitable barrage of assignments I'd foist upon him.

In the four years we worked together, Gilbert was an anomaly in the competitive, frequently ego-propelled realm of low-paying alt-weekly writer-editor dynamics. Despite my total lack of experience when I first took charge of Gilbert's copy for *SEE*, he treated me with deference and affability it would take me years to earn, and he was always helpful in directing my attention to significant things our readership probably cared about. He was never precious about his work, never got his shit in a knot if a sudden change to the ad stack cut his article down to three inches, and was on the phone with profuse apologies if it even looked like his copy was going to be late.



Gone, But Not Forgotten | Gilbert Bouchard is remembered as a respectful critic and an avid art lover. PHOTO SUPPLIED

That kind of respect for other people pervaded what I knew of his interactions with the world. Gilbert had a lot of respect for the people whose creativity he wrote about, and that always came across in the way he reflected on the artist's intentions or brought some smart cultural cross-reference in for consideration. I think Gilbert took shots from some of his peers who thought he wasn't confrontational enough in his approach to arts reportage, which seems to me an uncharitable reading of the sense of responsibility he brought to his job and the grace with which he reconciled his critical tendencies and

his pro-local arts bias. Smack-talk is a standard lazy ploy for arts writers who like to make themselves look smart both on and off the page, but I never heard Gilbert say a mean word about anyone — creative types or colleagues — period.

I doubt I'm alone in remembering Gilbert as kind and hospitable every time I saw him. The last time we really spoke was a little more than a year ago at *Over the Edge With 4-Play*, the Catalyst Theatre fundraiser where the cream of Edmonton's theatre scene write and produce an evening of plays in a day. Gilbert

BOUCHARD cont'd on pg. 12



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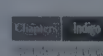
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What, You Think Edmonton Is Ugly?



HIDDEN NINJA FISH GRIWKOWSKY

CHECK OUT THESE COOL BUILDINGS AND RARE PIECES OF PUBLIC ART BEFORE THEY DISAPPEAR FROM EDMONTON

Any Edmontonian conscious and sticking it out during the early 1990s had no trouble accepting this global thing everyone was suddenly talking about called "irony." As you know, our city is built of the proudly shitty substance. So try as they might — while being paid a massive penny for it — no civic whitewasher, even using million-dollar websites, has ever been (nor will ever be) able to vanish the fact that our city is a ridiculously ugly place ... even to the imagined sandstone-cement fetishist. And yet, it's a place we defend with impossible

conviction. This is where our core irony beds. For while our passion over whatever rare siren moves us to rabid embrace our surroundings as a whole (the usually only-seen-from-the-bridge river valley being our most cited excuse), that love itself is unquestionably desperate and sincere. What's ironic is that the valley is the one thing that was already here before we shaved and caged it.

Even so, I'm just as guilty with the forgiveness as you, having built a personal visual reputation on extracting beauty from the wasteland of dandelion parking lots, flattened Tim Hortons litter, and the captured laughter of fittingly drunken drunks. Still, as anthillers, we do knock down any building that possesses character, or is a reasonable slice of our public art. I'd like to tap my favourites today in the "best of" vein. Warning: some irony will seep through the bag.

Central Post Office

The area right across the street from City Hall is beautiful or disgusting,

depending on which way you turn your head. Starting in the parking lot, look down to the right of the landmark CN Tower at the neglected-yet-provocative modernist clock, rusting and handlessly immune to time. It's art! Continuing with the chunky rectangles, the gorgeous display wall behind the solitary of arms leads us to the south side of the post office — but first notice the lion's curled tongue and rockabilly coif. Onto the abstract murals — captivating — white and grey and pink and red. Stare at them for a bit and you begin to see mail trucks, parcels, homes. Note how some are upside-down versions of others. Can you read its secret message?

Getsky!

That's no typo, but the line of gut enery between the wide pairing of the Gretz statue and Ian Mulder's Joey Moss mural on 99th Street. I have asked widely and Edmonton is the only city I have ever confirmed pouring such adulation on its very own Down syndrome hero, a point of

indefinable pride. Mulder also gets a hug for his famous Chez Pierre mural — though the building's dancing girl sign and the 3D car wash arch south are of exceptional note as classic. An extra match in several ways for Gretzky is the Pope John Paul II statue just northeast of Kingsway Mall. Both bronzy icons of worship: hands held high, larger than life, gone from us forever.

Two Large Brooches

Round the bend towards downtown at the start of west Jasper Avenue and a large and smart bit of apartment jewellery glistens in the sun. My other favourite costume piece is on the south side of U of A's SUB, the city's largest Klingon artwork.

City Market Apartments

North of the wretched Convention Centre which tells us in large, rainbow capital letters to DREAM of a river valley we could once actually fucking see from the bottom of 97th Street, City Market Apartments is a fortress surrounded by babbling, ag-

gressive hobos and tranny demons. But also, more magical creatures! These include feathered dragons to the south and a *Miami Vice* Pegasus facing the artist rez's west wall. Will you believe with me?

The Plainsman Apartments

Just go to 107 Avenue and 110 Street and bask in his glorious, forging love.

The Zodiac Mosaics

The late Heinrich Eichner's tiled depictions of the 12 astrological symbols circle the city's coolest building, the defunct Planetarium, which we can only hope ends up as a venue someday, not just a dusty storage closet. Freaky and gorgeous; the Greek-cartoonish sidewalk murals are basically my favourite thing in the entire city. Look up a satellite image of Coronation Park and it's at the northeast-pointing penis hole tip, drawn with curving sidewalks. Accidental, no doubt, as Washington, D.C.'s Masonic pentagram layout.

LIFE • DRINKING (729 words)

Satisfy Your Sweet Tooth ... With Booze!



BOOZE MUSE: MELISSA PRIESTLEY BORED WITH THE TASTE OF BEER OR WINE? THE CRAZY, FRUIT-FLAVOURED WORLD OF LIQUEURS AWAITS YOU

The pleasures of a good liqueur are not well known. It's been my experience that people typically go for standbys like wine, beer, or spirits such as vodka, rum, and rye. And while each of these comes in many different varieties, it's still easy to get bored with them. Even diehards can get tired of sipping the same thing day after day.

Enter liqueurs and their mind-bogglingly wide range of flavours. Now, you may only be familiar with a handful of the common names — Grand Marnier, Drambuie, Triple Sec — but there are literally thousands of them out there. And they don't all taste like oranges, either.

The definition of a liqueur is pretty broad; essentially the name refers to any flavoured spirit that has been sweetened. Those flavourings vary widely, though fruits are the most common; herbs, vegetables, and spices are also regularly used. Liqueurs

have been around for centuries, and though most of them were originally infended to be used for their "medicinal properties," the 20th century saw them rise in popularity as beverage alcohol.

I wouldn't go so far as to say liqueurs are the height of fashion right now, at least not around here. (Let's face it: Edmonton is a beer town, plain and simple.) However, they are certainly not unheard of, and you can readily obtain a wide array of liqueurs from any well-stocked liquor store. They're easy to serve too — most are meant to be sipped after dinner on their own; serve them slightly chilled in any decent wineglass.

Fruit Explosion

As I alluded to earlier, oranges are a staple of liqueurs — in fact, one of the earliest liqueurs is Curaçao, first produced by Dutch colonists in the 17th century using the bitter oranges they found in the Caribbean islands. Other common liqueur fruits are cherries, raspberries, and blackcurrants.

Some great examples of fruity liqueurs are Chambord, which explodes with jammy raspberry flavours; crème de cassis, which features rich currant flavours; and cherry brandy, which is highly aromatic and unctuously sweet. However, there are many others out there and it's worth checking out

some of the more unique ones; some of my favourites include liqueurs made with melon, pomegranate, and lychee.

Herbs And Spice

No, I'm not talking about Jägermeister — though admittedly Jag does fall into this category. Though there are a wide variety of herbal liqueurs, the most common ones are flavoured with anise or liquorice. Pernod, pastis, sambuca, and ouzo are all examples, and they vary only slightly in taste, each with their own unique nuance. While herbal liqueurs are still uniformly sweet, much of this quality is offset by the bitterness of the plants.

The infamous absinthe also belongs to this category, though it certainly stands out among them — if only due to its notorious reputation. Back in the 19th century, absinthe was reviled as the "green fairy," a drink that would lure imbibers to certain doom with its powerful hallucinogenic properties. The hallucinations came from the addition of wormwood, and while you can still get absinthe made with wormwood, it won't be in concentrations high enough to make you see pink elephants dancing down the street. (And that's probably for the better.)

Other interesting herbal liqueurs include the pungently herbaceous Chartreuse, lavender-scented Gal-

liano, and the luscious vanilla-flavoured Tuaca.

Creamy Goodness

Cream liqueurs are like liquid dessert; they are among the sweetest of liqueurs and are rich and savoury, perfect for finishing off a big meal. As befitting their position as dessert booze, chocolate, coffee, nuts, and toffee are common flavourings. Baileys Irish Cream is probably the most familiar example of these liqueurs — although I think its rampant popularity has also made it rather ho-hum.

Though I'm loath to give kudos to such a large, omnipresent corporation, Starbucks has a range of coffee liqueurs that are pretty awesome. Other interesting examples of cream liqueurs include the hazelnut-flavoured Frangelico, the classic Dutch egg-based liqueur Advocaat, and Amarula, which is made with African marula fruit. (Elephants are drawn to ripe marula fruit and have been known to eat it as it ferments, getting hilariously drunk in the process.)

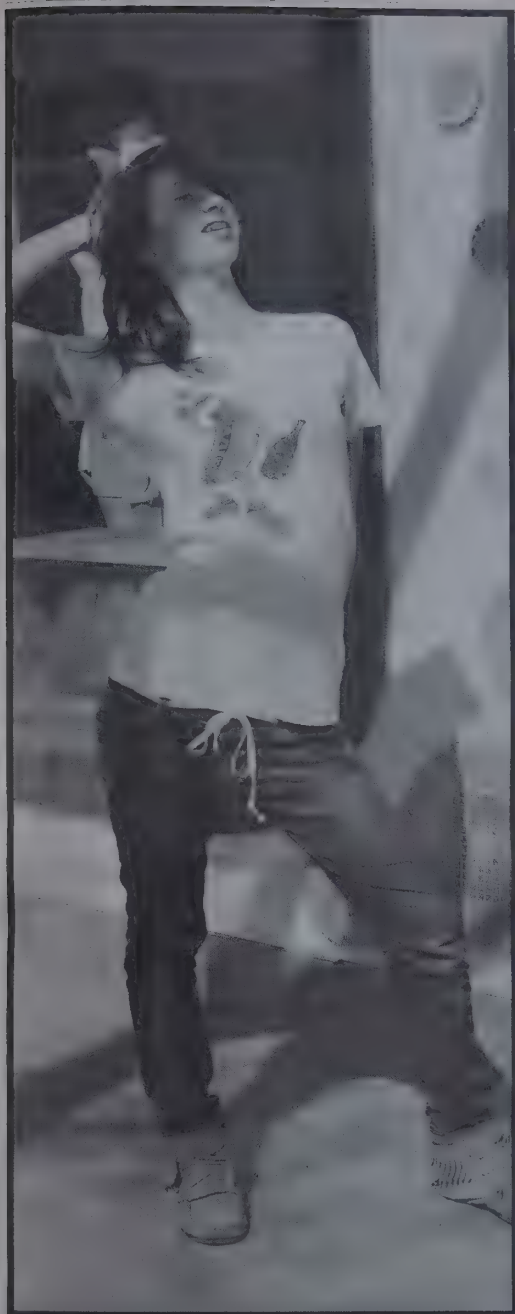
Finally, though it's not technically a cream liqueur, I have to mention the Sortilege Maple Whisky liqueur, as it is one of the most unusual and tastiest liqueurs I've ever had. And yes, it is most definitely Canadian. I think we'd sell maple-flavoured toothpaste if we thought anyone would buy it.

BOUCHARD (cont'd from pg. 11)

and I had been drafted as "celebrity" critics and, as a veteran of countless such events, he set to helping me feel at home, fixing me up with pages from his notepad and a pen when I showed up completely unprepared and sharing his supply of decadent truffles and the flask of single malt he had brought to include in the string of gags he'd concocted for his turns at the microphone. As always, he seemed sincerely curious about how my freelance career was progressing and, as always, he seemed to be keeping a very full schedule.

Given his consistently positive and affable demeanour, it was a shock to hear that Gilbert had been battling depression and that he had gone missing. Suddenly his absence loomed large at places you might have counted on finding him: not just in the *Journal's* culture section or on CBC's *Radio Active*, but at an Edmonton Poetry Festival event at The ARTery, or at the Art on the Block fundraiser at the EAG — those perennial stomping grounds where you wouldn't have been sure whether he was on duty or basking his affection for the city's culturesphere.

It's not my place to speculate on the unfathomable forces that colluded to take Gilbert Bouchard from our midst, but I can't stop myself from thinking of them as something alien and extrinsic to the ardent arts advocate and gentle person of my acquaintance. All I know is our city can't spare a person of such warmth and dedication to community at the best of times, which spring of 2009 has not resembled in any way.



myLook

Tiffany Weiss | Sales associate, Plush Girls
BY CHANTAL GAGNON

My Look: Saggy and baggy.

Wearing: A pair of blue jeans and my RUCA tee. Oh! And my moccasins of course. I don't dress clean or preppy or whatever. My jeans are always saggy in the bum and I'm always wearing hoodies and T-shirts that aren't skin tight.

Hair: Today, greasy, but it's usually clean and wavy or whatever it does in the morning. I just wash it and go wherever I'm going.

Into: Snowboarding, hanging out with people, and working, pretty much, and texting boys.

Wanna be in My Look? Send your photo to style@see.greatwest.ca.

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Flo Rida ft. Ke\$ha
- 3 Kiss Me Thru The Phone
Soulja Boy
- 4 Day 'N' Nite
Kid Cudi
- 5 Crack A Bottle
Eminem
- 6 Dead And Gone
T.I. Ft. Justin Timberlake
- 7 I'm On A Boat
Lonely Island
- 8 I Know You Want Me
Pitbull
- 9 LoveGame
Lady Gaga
- 10 Knock You Down
Keri Wilson

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JUNE | TICKETS \$12.00
IN ADVANCE

30



BLACKWATER JACK

JUNE | TICKETS \$39.95
STARTING AT

5



THE SEARCHERS

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10



THE NORTHERN PIKES

12



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The Gems Of Edmonton's Restaurant World

MOST IMPROVED RESTAURANT! OUTSTANDING ENTRÉE! SEE'S FOOD CRITIC HANDS OUT THE SUPERLATIVES

The Best of Edmonton marks an exciting occasion: it presents the opportunity for me to stop bothering strangers in elevators with my picks from Edmonton's sprawling, varied restaurant scene and broadcast my untutored and unrefined tastes to a wider audience. It's precisely because of the breadth of selection we enjoy here — a fact well camouflaged by the preponderance of brand-name, homogenized dining experiences that vie for our discretionary income — that I hesitate to append the superlative "Best" to any particular vendor. The "best" strategy is to take chances, chart your own course, seek out new venues to tantalize your palate, set high standards, and reward the "best" with your repeat business. Until you have a chance to do that, you're stuck with me to lead you off the beaten track.

Join me now at my pick for **Most Improved Restaurant** (Mediterranean division). Kamil's Turkish Café (12408-118 Ave). The place always did a nice job with their lengthy bill of Turkish fare, despite a tendency

to always be out of whatever I most wanted to order. The problem was with the drop-in centre atmosphere that resulted from institutional fixtures — acoustic ceiling tile, fluorescent lights, stained flooring — and décor that barely masked the space's presumable previous incarnation as an insurance office in a dubious neighbourhood.

Post-facelift, Kamil's hasn't become exponentially more elegant, but it has a fresh gloss of colour and attention to esthetic detail — especially in its eye-dazzling array of fabrics — that makes it a nice place to sit and enjoy, say, their astonishing beyti (\$15), seasoned grilled beef rolled in layers of dough, baked and smothered in garlicky tomato sauce and yogurt. Or, if that doesn't suit you, there are 70 other menu items to pick from.

Wild Tangerine Cucina Domestica (10388-112 St) has always been about attractively mod décor and trendsetting Asian fusion cuisine, the latter of which puts them at the top of my list for **Outstanding Entrée** for their Marsala-Masala Lamb Loin Chops (\$28). We're talking about the most fall-apart tender lamb on the bone I've ever had, smothered in a rich, dark gravy fragrant with

Indian spices, all of which colluded to deprive me of my decorum as I virtually made out with each piece, trying to relieve it of every last shred of meat.

Too much meat in your diet is not a good thing, so you're encouraged to work my suggestion for **Tastiest Vegetarian Treat** (under \$10 category) from Savoy's Health Café (11010-51 Ave), a place that, coincidentally, still awaits its makeover. The consolation prize for entering its humble, scuffed dining area is the masala dosa (\$5.49), a thin, fragile crepe filled with Indian-spiced potatoes and veggies, served with coconutty cilantro chutney. The purchase price also gets you a bowl of hearty South Indian lentil soup, called sambar, which is also packed with vegetable and a tantalizing hint of spice. And Savoy's fresh fruit and vegetable juice blends taste like health itself.

Speaking of healthy, Persian cuisine seems like it must be quite good for you with its emphasis on lean grilled meats, stewed pulses, pilavs and fresh herbs. I've only had a chance to try it a couple of times, but I'd like to endorse Sabzy Cuisine of Persia (10416-82 Ave) as the **Most Welcome New Restaurant**. Not only does it hold its own among the **Cooldest Places to Sit on Whyte**, but it also marks the breakthrough arrival of Persian cuisine in Edmonton's restaurant mosaic, which hopefully marks an upswing in the availability of Iranian cooking. While the assortment of kabobs on their regular menu makes for a good intro, check their website (www.sabzy.net) for its list of rotating daily specials and try out their aab gosh't (lamb stew with beans and potatoes) or fesengan (chicken in walnut-pomegranate



Round Up | Chicken For Lunch nabs the coveted Most Popular Takeout Food title. PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON

sauce) to get yourself fully hooked. And don't forget the side of sabzy.

Then there are the times you don't want to be healthy and for that there is the gam poong gi from Lee House (7904-104 St), my pick for **Best Guilty Pleasure** (Asian division). Unlike the super-absorbent chicken balls of traditional Chinese cookery, Lee House's Korean variant takes crisp fried orbs of chicken breast and smothers them in a sticky, spicy, sweet red condiment with highly addictive properties.

But if we're talking addiction, I'd be remiss in not noting the contin-

ued food court dominance of Chick-n-Lunch (lower level, Scotia Place), the uncontested winner of **Most Popular Takeout Food** (kiosk division). I'm never less than astonished by the lengthy line that forms every weekday in front of this place, all for a Styrofoam container packed to bulging with two or three kinds of salty chicken orts (including the "dry and spicy," which I've heard referred to as "crack chicken"), steamed veggies, noodles and rice, all for around \$7. When it comes to pleasing the people, Chicken for Lunch's lengthy lineups speak louder than words.

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MacEwan's South Campus
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www.MacEwan.ca/massage

MACEWAN



edster's dictionary

LOCAL VOCAB • BY TRENT WILKIE

leduxorcising

VERB • A method of driving demons from one's body invented by Pud Wonsleski from Leduc. "Yeah, the wife didn't think little Jeffy needed a leduxorcising at first, but all she had to do was see him throw up green stuff, babble in tongues, and scream for no apparent reason and she was convinced. Jeffy is seven months old, why do you ask?"

Pantric Hypnosis

NOUN • A form of hypnosis conducted with the aid of a frying pan. "Pantric hypnosis works pretty well. Just get some people from the audience up onstage. Make sure they are comfortably seated, then smoke them on the face with the pan and tell them to go to sleep. Nine out of 10 times it works. If they don't sleep, I tell them to seizure. I'm pretty good at what I do."

Urinetine Gold

NOUN • Edmonton's only recycled beer company. "They say that it isn't but I'm pretty sure Urinetine Gold is just cold urine. But hey, it's cheap."

check out new vocab every week

EVENTS

\$10,000 STREET LEGAL SHOOT
OUT CASTROL RACEWAY, SOUTH
OF EDMONTON ON HIGHWAY 19,
ADJACENT TO HWY 1 AIRPORT, MAY
23-24 Info: www.castrolraceway.com

17TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF
CLASSIC LEXUS GOLF & COUNTRY
CLUB, 5725 BLACK GOLD DRIVE
LEUC, MAY 25 Proceeds support Leuc
Community Hospital and Health Centres
of Beaumont, Leduc and Thorsby. Registration:
\$150. Info: 980-4536

ARTS MARKET CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEEHOUSE
9351-118 AVE. Artists and artisans from the community and
beyond, sharing unique gifts with local flavour. Every Sat.
From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: www.thecarrot.ca

CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY: RELAY FOR LIFE FOOTIE
FIELD, 11601-68 AVE., MAY 23 Info: www.cancer.ca

DOORS OPEN FESTIVAL HERITAGE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION, #54, 9912-106 ST., MAY 23-24 Learn how
landmark buildings and spaces contribute to Edmonton's
development and civic pride. Full list of Events and details:
www.doorsopenalberta.ca

ENJOY LIFE OUTSIDE: INSPIRED PROJECTS AUDREY'S
BOOKS, 10702 JASPER AVE., MAY 21 Author Linda Bodo
demonstrates projects from her new book. Doors at 12 p.m.
FORUM ON TRANSGENDER ISSUES UNITARIAN CHURCH
OF EDMONTON, 10804-119 ST., MAY 24 Doors at 6:30 p.m.
FREE FAMILY ART NIGHTS NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE
9704-111 AVE., For Parents and children up to 12. Every Thu.
Doors at 6:30 p.m. Info: 780-474-7611

HENNA BODY ART CASTLE DOWNS PUBLIC LIBRARY, 15379
CASTLE DOWNS RD., MAY 27 Workshop for teens to learn
about the origins and uses of henna art. Starts at 4 p.m.
Info: www.spl.ca/Events

HENNA BODY ART SPRUKWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY, 11555-
95 ST., MAY 23 Workshop for teens to learn about the origins
and uses of Henna art. Info: www.spl.ca/Events

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL ARDEN
THEATRE, #5 ST. ANNE ST., ST. ALBERT, MAY 26-30
IT'S A REGIME STUPID AUDREY'S BOOKS, 10702 JASPER
AVE., MAY 21 Barry Cooper reads from his new book. Doors
at 7:30 p.m.

RENEGADE WOMEN OF CANADA AUDREY'S BOOKS,
10702 JASPER AVE., MAY 24 Author and filmmaker Marina
Michaelides signs her recent book. Doors at 2 p.m.

REUSE FAIR AVENMORE COMMUNITY HALL, 7902-73 AVE.,
MAY 23 Unwanted but reusable household items are col-
lected and passed on to charities, non-profits, artists and
schools as needed. Doors 10 a.m. Info: 465-0783

SPRING STOP & SHOP AVIATION HANGER, 17410 KINGSWAY
AVE., MAY 22-24 Fashion, accessories, home decor and
much more by over 100 designers and artisans. Info: www.stopandshopshow.com

SWING DANCE AT SUGAR FOOT STOMP ORANGE HALL,
10335-84 AVE., Beginner lessons followed by dance. Every
Sat. Doors at 8 p.m.

TAROT CARD READINGS THE HAT, 10251 JASPER AVE.
Doors at 7 p.m.

WRITERS' CIRCLE CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEE-
HOUSE, 9351-118 AVE., Writing workshop every Tue of month.
Doors at 7 p.m.

LEARNING

DISCOVER YOUR INNER VOICE VILLAGE LIFESTYLES,
10429-79 AVE., MAY 21 Six sessions focusing on artistic
expression. Doors at 10 a.m. Info: 242-6065

EDMONTON SOCIAL ENTERPRISE FUND SEF OFFICE,
9613-111 AVE., MAY 21 2009 Seminars: Learn about Social
Enterprise. Cost: \$150. Register: www.socialenterprisefund.ca or 293-5080.

FUNDRAISING FOR NON-PROFITS COURSE WESTERN
CANADIAN BANK PLACE, 10303 JASPER AVE., MAY 27-28
Two-day course will introduce fundraising concepts and
techniques. Info: www.alpedmonton.ca/PDF/First-Course2009.pdf

PHILOSOPHY FOR LIVING SGI EDMONTON CENTRE, 10711-
107 AVE., MAY 23 Buddhism lecture series. Doors at 1 p.m.
Info: www.sgicanada.org

QUEER

BISexual WOMEN'S COFFEE GROUP

VILLAGE LIFESTYLES, 10429-79 AVE.

A social group for bi-curious and
bisexual women. Every second
Tue of the month: 8:00 p.m. Info:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bweddmonton>

MEN TALKING WITH PRIDE

PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE., A
social discussion group for gay, bisexual
and transgendered men to discuss current
issues and to offer support to each other. Every

Sun. Doors at 7 p.m. Info: rebwell780@hotmail.com
PFLAG PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE., Parents and Friends
of Lesbians and Gays. A support group for family members
and friends of GLBT people. An excellent resource for people
whose family members and friends have just come out.
First Wed of month. Doors at 7 p.m. Info: edmontonabapflagcanada.ca

SENIORS DROP-IN PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE., A social
and support group for seniors of all genders and sexualities
to talk, have tea and offer each other support. Every Tue and
Thu. Doors at 1 p.m. Info: tuffishaw.ca

TESG PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE., Transgender Education
and Support Group. Education and support for transgender,
transsexual and questioning people in any stage of transi-
tion. Second Tue 8th month. Doors at 7:30 p.m.

Info: admin@pridecentreofedmonton.org

TTQ PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE., A mixed gender open support group
addressing the needs of transsexual
and transgendered individuals. First
and third Sun of month. Doors at 10
p.m. Info: admin@pridecentre-of-edmonton.org

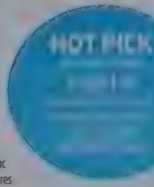
WOMENSPACE BOARD
MEETING PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111
AVE., A social and recreational
society run
by volunteers to provide opportunities
for lesbians to interact each other in a safe

environment. First Sun 1st month. Doors at 10:30 a.m. Info:
wsresident@hotmail.com

YOUTH MOVIE PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.

Movie

chosen by youth (aged 14-25), usually
with LGBT themes. Popcorn is served.
Doors at 6:30 p.m. Info: brandan@pridecentreofedmonton.org
YOUTH UNDERSTANDING
YOUTH PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111
AVE., A place where LGBT youth
under 18 can gather to have fun in a
safe, supportive, and caring environment.
Doors at 7 p.m. Info: yuy@shaw.ca



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MUSIC PREVIEW • **COOL KIDS** • BY MIKE DEANE | 106 words

Dirty Projectors Make A Clean Breast Of It

THE BROOKLYN BUZZ BAND HAS EVOLVED FROM BLACK FLAG DECONSTRUCTORS TO BYRNE/BJÖRK COLLABORATORS. WHAT'S NEXT?

DIRTY PROJECTORS

Opening for TV On The Radio, Edmonton Event Centre (WEM: 6882-7705) Wed. May 27. Tickets: \$24.50, available through Ticketmaster.



Is That What People Mean By A "Multimedia Show"? | Dirty Projectors are currently on tour with fellow New Yorkers TV On The Radio. PHOTO BY MIA FERN

Brooklyn's Dirty Projectors began as an adept experimental music project by Yale music student David Longstreth, but soon grew into much more than that. They'd always been known for their fractured, challenging songwriting, but the band really grabbed everyone's attention in 2007 with the release of *Rise Above*, a bizarrely layered yet somehow melodic reimagining of Black Flag's seminal hardcore album *Damaged*. Since then, Longstreth has cemented the line-up of musicians who recorded on *Rise Above*, and has moved Dirty Projectors from a solo project to an actual band.

Now that singer/guitarists Amber Coffman and Angel Deradoorian are permanent members of the group, their sound has become more smoothed-out and straightforward, as evidenced in the band's latest singles. But they're still definitely sitting at the cool kids' table: they collaborated with David Byrne on "Knotty Pine," a track from the recent all-star *Dark Was the Night* charity album, and just two weeks ago, Longstreth and co. did a charity performance with Björk, performing songs that Longstreth had written especially for the occasion. If that weren't enough, now the band is touring across Canada with fellow New Yorkers TV on the Radio, and

have a new album, *Bitte Orca*, that will have its official release in June. I was able to catch up with singer/guitarist Amber Coffman before the band went on tour, and got some insight into how Dirty Projectors operate, and the story behind their ever-evolving music.

"This album is the first album that was made after [Deradoorian and I] joined the band," Coffman says. "I was on the last album, but those songs were written before Dave really knew me, before I came along. Now we've been together for a couple of years, and I think he wanted to bring out our individual qualities, with me and with Angel. In the past it's been me and Angel singing together in these harmonies, and taking them on

as our own as much as we could, but it wasn't like those songs were written specifically for us because of who we are. There are a couple of songs on the album that were written for us — Dave wrote a song for Angel and one with me."

With the newest single, "Stillness Is the Move," bringing the band to new levels of melody and accessibility, it begs the question of whether Longstreth intends to keep moving away from the disorienting sounds of *Rise Above*.

"It's definitely a different vibe," Coffman agrees. "We're pretty deep inside all of this music, and I think that this new stuff is more optimistic, but I don't know if I would call it more popular. To each his own,

though I haven't really listened to it and thought, 'This stuff is a lot more accessible.' I can see why people may think that, and I'm sure Dave was conscious of it, but I'm sure it wasn't ruling how he wrote the songs, necessarily. He was willing to go there, in his songwriting journey. He wasn't straining to go there, but he was willing to."

The members of Dirty Projectors are all accomplished musicians in their own right. Deradoorian has recently released her own project, and many of the other members also have side projects on the go. Dirty Projectors however, are still very much Longstreth's baby. "It is his project, and always has been and always will be," Coffman says. "I mean, I think

we all share our own part of it, but it's not at any point a collaborative effort. And none of us ever intended it to be. He writes pretty much everything."

That said, Longstreth's compositions leave space for the various band members to get on board with each song. "I definitely feel the music wholeheartedly," Coffman says, "and I definitely take on every part of it as my own. Sure, it's different from doing your own stuff, it's definitely a different mode that you step into, but at the same time it doesn't make it impersonal for me in any way, I am very much in it. I love the music so much, and I really enjoy playing it. I just want to communicate it so well. I believe in it."



Motown Mamas | After more than three decades in it, these sisters' career is more than just a "Fairytale." PHOTO SUPPLIED

HOT TICKETS • MUST-SEE SHOWS

WANG DANG DOODLE

Pointer Sisters

Winspear Centre • May 22-23

\$24 | Winspear Box Office

When the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra asked Pointer Sister fans to submit video clips of their best neutron dance for a chance to win a pair of tickets for this show, we got so excited that we couldn't hide it. We got so excited, in fact, that we were about to lose control and we think we liked it. We liked it so much that by the time we calmed down enough to get our camcorder out, we missed the deadline and had to buy tickets like everyone else. Oh well, probably for the best — no one needs to suffer through that.

THAT'S A RAP

Hip Hop in the Park

Louise McKinney Park • May 23

Free

Hip hop has been getting a bit of a bad rap thanks to foul-mouthed thugs who brag about how many women they can hit before the police show up. Fortunately the home-grown Hip Hop in the Park festival is back for its second year to supply us with smart rhymes sans profanity. Organizers have assured us that this year's show will be family-friendly, with more than two dozen performers from all over the province converging on Louise McKinney Park to host workshops, give dance lessons, and of course, perform.

IDOL DREAM TEAM

Il Divo

Rexall Place • May 25

\$59.24 | Ticketmaster

If you notice a disturbing lack of teenage girls and their mothers in the streets of Edmonton on Monday, don't panic — they're all safe and sound at Rexall Place, we assure you. And who can blame them? With Simon Cowell's eye for casting and flair for marketing, and Carlos Marin, Urs Bühler, David Miller, and Sebastian Izambard's good looks and golden voices, this quartet is the biggest name in classical-pop — filling a marketing niche that we indie-rock sourpusses, quite frankly, didn't realize even existed.

MUSIC PROFILE • MULTICULTURAL MAESTRO • BY RENATO PAGNANI | 569 words

A Jali Good Time Was Had By All



Diaspora On Disc | Now that recording and releasing *Jali Vol. 1* is over with, Marlon Wilson's big challenge is getting the contributors together again for a CD release party. IMAGE SUPPLIED

POLITIC LIVE'S MARLON WILSON CONVERTS INTERVIEWS WITH LOCAL AFRICAN-CARIBBEANS INTO AN AMBITIOUS HIP-HOP ALBUM

As a black kid growing up in Alberta, Marlon Wilson wasn't much interested in learning piano, guitar, or drums. That's not because Wilson, who would grow up to become one-third of the Edmonton hip-hop group Politic Live, thought they were lame, but because few of the artists he listened to during his formative years played them.

"I was a hip-hop kid," Wilson explains. "If you grew up a hip-hop kid, instruments really weren't pushed on you, and the rappers you were listening to didn't play any. Before The Roots hit the scene, there wasn't much live instrumentation in the music. I really didn't have anyone to look up to."

This lack of musical role models for African-Canadian youth is why *Jali Vol. 1*, which was initially conceived as Politic Live's third album before it morphed into something much bigger, features an all-black roster. The lineup, which goes by the name Mahogany Public, includes not just rappers like the Politic Live MCs and their friends, but also saxophonists like Brett Miles and multi-instrumentalists like Oozeela, who produced the album. "We wanted to encourage black musicians," Wilson says. "I think it's important for kids in music to actually know how to play instruments and the theory behind the music. We wanted black kids to pick up the CD and see a black drummer, guitarist — whatever."

"Just to be able to see someone who looks like them and who play instruments is huge," he continues. "They

might start to realize that while rock 'n' roll music might have a white face on it now, it's something that they should still be able to relate to — not just because music is universal, but because it came from their bloodlines."

Jali — the title derives from a West African term meaning "holder of oral traditions" — fuses together a number of genres and styles found today in Edmonton's African-Caribbean community, from hip-hop to reggae, soca to Afrobeat. This community did not simply influence *Jali*; it literally assisted in the creation process. Politic Live spent months interviewing friends and family in order to capture their thoughts, both positive and negative, about their diasporic lives in Alberta.

"We found ways to structure the interviews into song lyrics," Wilson says. "If you were to listen to the interviews and compare them to the verses on the album, you'd notice that sometimes we lift things almost verbatim from the interviews."

An ambitious project like *Jali* presents its own unique set of challenges, the biggest being simple logistics — it's a difficult task to get this many people in the same place at the same time. That's why, while the album is now available for purchase, there has yet to be an official release party. (One is in the planning stages, though — Wilson hopes it'll happen sometime this fall.)

"People have other responsibilities and projects they're working on," Wilson says, "so I'm kind of amazed that the album even got finished. It was a nightmare at times, but totally worth it in the end."

Mahogany Public's Jali Vol. 1
is in stores now.

MUSIC PREVIEW • SINGER/SONGWRITER • BY MICHELLE GARCIA | 557 words

Oh, For The Days Before MySpace ...

DANNY MICHEL LONGS FOR A TIME WHEN YOUNG MUSICIANS REALLY HAD TO WORK TO BECOME A BAND

DANNY MICHEL

w/ Ayla Brook, Haven Social Club (15120A Stony Plain Rd.)
Sat., May 23 (doors 8 p.m.) Tickets: \$20, available through
Ticketmaster and Megatunes.

"There's too much music in the world," muses folksy singer/songwriter Danny Michel — and he doesn't necessarily think that's a good thing. "I think it's a shame that people can make music in their basement, get a MySpace and be a band... You have people who maybe aren't dedicated."

When Michel began making music as a teenager, MySpace certainly didn't exist, people got free music by taping it off the radio, and buying some software and making a record in your basement was just not a possibility. Instead he recalls getting jobs and saving up thousands of dollars to get some studio time make an album. "For me and my band to make a record," Michel says, "we really had to commit." He says now bands get together as a hobby, "not because it's the real driving passion in their heart."

He compares the process to a football team tryout where thousands of people show up: "It takes away from everybody." The artist often touted for his superb songwriting says that in the overcrowded music market, "nothing stands out."

In spite of that Michel's doing a pretty good job holding his own. The artist has been acclaimed by critics since the release of his solo debut



"In My Day, We Had To Walk Four Miles In The Snow To Get To A Recording Studio..." | Callow MySpace "insta-bands" bring on Danny Michel's grumpy streak. PHOTO BY ALPHAPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Before the World Was Round in 1997. Since then, he's broadened his musical horizons, writing for film and TV and hosting his own radio show on CBC. He's also made waves producing records for other artists; most recently he worked on the new album for Edmonton native Ayla Brook, who will open his hometown show on Saturday. "I've never really gone looking for it," he says of his producing gigs, "but every time I do one, it leads to other people asking me. It's nice to be in a different chair. It's teaching me to notice stuff in my own songs."

Now that his 2008 release *Feather, Fur and Fin* has run its course, Michel's back in the business of writing and producing music for himself. In its "hazy ideas" stage, his new record is just taking shape. "I don't know how I'm going to record it yet," he muses. "When you're writing like this, you can't force it. You can't force creativity."

In the past, Michel says, the pressure to produce a great record led to

writer's block. "It's more of a mental state of panic," he says. "You start second-guessing yourself." But he's noticed a considerable decrease in pressure since shedding his record label. Since his last record, Michel's been a one-man show writing, singing, and producing his entire record. "They're my songs," he says. "I'm all they need."

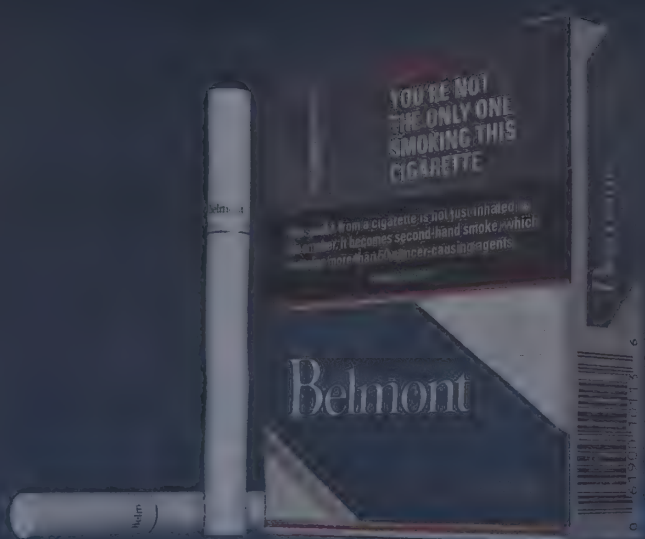
But creating songs solo doesn't mean locking away his music until record release day. "I find that if I just play in my house all the time you can be led astray of whether it's good or not," he says. "I'm going to get out and play them in front of a bunch of people. That usually helps sort them out."

He hits the road this summer to do just that heading all over the country, with a couple of stops in Edmonton including one at this year's Folk Music Festival. "The bigger the show, the more I enjoy it," he says. "It's very satisfying to play [the Folk Fest] because they get it. It's where people who really love music go."

seriously?
more snow?!?

thank God we've got
Sugarbowl
10922 88th Avenue

Belmont



WARNING

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE SMOKING THIS CIGARETTE

The smoke from a cigarette is not just inhaled by the smoker. It becomes second-hand smoke, which contains more than 50 cancer-causing agents.

Health Canada

CD REVIEWS



Freak Folk
GRIZZLY BEAR
Veckatimest
(Warp)

★★★★★

Sometimes you don't figure out what bugged you about an album until a few months later when you hear another album doing the same thing, only better. *Veckatimest*, the new disc from Brooklyn quartet Grizzly Bear, was recorded in much the same sort of settings as Great Lake Swimmers' *Lost Channels* — in old churches, in cottages near the water, places where you can imagine the band members passing a flask around the campfire every night, practicing their harmonies for the next day's recording session. Both albums came out sounding lovely, but Grizzly Bear offers much more than the platitudinous prettiness of Great Lake Swimmers. There's an unstable element underlying every song, whether it's the shifting, undulating melody of "I Live With You" or the brilliantly arranged youth choir that pops up halfway through "Cheerleader." The lyrics are hard to grasp at times — the band prefers to write *around* emotions rather than confront them head-on — and the melodies often feel unresolved as well. But it's not that they don't know where they're going; they just haven't arrived there yet. And you feel like anything could still happen along the way. The opening line from "Dory" puts it best: *Veckatimest* is "wildly coherent."

PAUL MATWYCHUK



Disco For Dookie
GREEN DAY
21st Century Breakdown
(Reprise)

★★★★★

Green Day are no longer content merely to sing about masturbation. With *21st Century Breakdown*, they've followed up their breakthrough rock opera *American Idiot* with another concept album that's their most musically and lyrically mature album to date. (Granted, this is a band whose biggest-selling album was titled *Dookie*, but still.) Where *American Idiot* wallowed in the despair created by everyone's favourite lame president, *21st Century* comes at the dawn of a (somewhat) sunnier new era. However, Green Day refuses to be completely swept up in Obamamania: on "American Eulogy," Billie Joe Armstrong chides, "True sounds of maniacal laughter/And the deaf-mute is misleading the choir/The punchline is a natural disaster/And it's sung by the unemployed/Fight fire with a riot." You can't help but think that if that choir really does consist of America's unemployed, they must be pretty loud, and delivering an equally deafening punchline. An album worthy of the hype.

CURTIS WRIGHT



Noisy Noises
TYVEK
(Siltbreeze)

★★★★★

Prior to this album, Michigan's Tyvek had only a string of 7"s to their credit, all of them filled with solid, catchy, frantic, scratchy punk rock. With this release, the band moves in a different direction, incorporating more layers, stranger song structures, and more unconventional sounds to create one weird lo-fi punk album. Only "Hey Una" — a re-recording of the outstanding "Frustration Rock" (the original version was better) — and "Stop Start" sound like the fast Tyvek of yore. What does the rest of the album give us? Opener "Circular Ruins" gives you a good idea of what to expect: it's a confusing, herky-jerky experiment with recorders soloing in the background while singer Kevin Boyer asks, "Are we dreamers, or are we all drugged up?" There are a few droning one-minute intermissions ("Sonora"), some denser, less playful, midtempo punk songs, ("Stand and Fight") and some very experimental noise-rock ("CVS Card," "What to Do"). Overall, Tyvek contains enough high points to balance out the harder-to-grasp bits, making this one of the more dense, challenging, and enjoyable punk albums of recent years.

MIKE DEANE



Canada's Favourite Skank
PEACHES
I Feel Cream
(XL)

★★★★★

On her last two albums, Peaches' brand of button-pushing dance music was starting to sound less ferocious and more formulaic, and for an artist who traffics in shock value, that's a career death knell. Fortunately, the Canadian-born 40-year-old still has a few tricks up her sleeve, the biggest ones on *I Feel Cream* being maturity and, yes, subtlety — plus help from collaborators like Soulwax and Simian Mobile Disco. On "Talk to Me," Peaches exhorts her partner to improve his communication skills, the irony stemming from the way her vocals straddle the line between singing and full-out shouting. And on "Lose You," her vulnerability adds surprising layers to a rather one-dimensional musical persona. Don't worry, though; she'll still "fuck you like a billionaire," but only if you "lick her crow's feet." Peaches' comfort with her age is refreshing; on *I Feel Cream* she comes across as almost sensual instead of simply skanky. But she's still that too.

RENATO PAGNANI



Frank's In Love
GRAND DUCHY
Petit Fours
(Cooking Vinyl)

★★★★★

What do you do when you meet that special someone whose musical obsessions complement your own and, in some ways, echo your legendary past? If you're Charles "Black Francis/Frank Black" Thompson III, you marry her and let your musical progeny loose upon the world. Thompson has teamed up with spouse/bassist/vocalist Violet Clark to form Grand Duchy, and if the result doesn't attain the heights of the work that made his name(s), the modesty of its ambitions is refreshing. I mean, it's unmistakably the former Pixies frontman right out of the gate, even if he goes all Doug Martsch on "Fort Wayne," which is rescued from Built to Spill-sian melancholy by Clark's angelic la-las and French whispers. But surprisingly, Thompson takes the back seat to Clark on tunes like "The Long Song" and the hopped-up album closer "Volcanic!" where comparisons to Kim Deal are all but unavoidable. What makes *Petit Fours* such a pleasure is the scaled-down, handmade execution of by the happy lovin' couple that renders the inbuilt eccentricities of the songs subtler and somehow richer. Just adjust your expectations accordingly.

SCOTT LINGLEY

LISTEN · BY FISH GRIWKOWSKY

PINK MOUNTAINTOPS
OUTSIDE LOVE

Any musician who refuses to write love songs because they're trite and meaningless — even self-indulgent — has to answer to this perfectly narrated collection of love songs and ask if they aren't in fact just all those dismissive adjectives themselves. Because Stephen McBean sure as goddamned fucking shit isn't when he writes lines like "I ain't living no long lonesome nights. I've stopped calling that woman my wife. I see the light at the end of this storm leading home. And I thank you. Yes, I thank you."

That, my friends, is a song about having the very sex that makes you human again after you were actually ready to throw your lost and blind little life away months earlier. This act of gushing reconnection which is not only universal, it is the very reason you are alive in the first place, lucky dog. You are over Jordan Catalano. Angela.

So much rawer than Zeppelin's own song of gratitude, the album, widening the shot, is mystically full of such borderlands wisdom — like all the "true dat" in The Magnetic Fields' 69 *Love Songs* stripped of cliché and boiled down to just 10 in number. The sonic vibe is largely '50s/'80s goth, not too far off Jesus and Mary Chain, though not too close, either.

Like the album cover, with its image of a book nestled in blue velvet, implies, the lyrics are to be read along with as near-holy. Fittingly, there are one-night duets with several damsels, all of them as flawed and damaged as the writer of their lyrics, the diary as a whole a celebration of the weird-ass relationship moments we end up dragging ourselves through on the way to cheap coffins.

There is even room for total bliss, though never so naive as to imagine bliss eternal. "Runaway teens are at the gate to the Milky Way" on the one hand. "You can suck out the blood, but you can't kill the heart of me" on the other. And dig this, dungeon-masters: "Rotten fingers hold my hand, promise me that in the end — we will find our love again." Guh!

I'm spinning from mad flashbacks, and from the skill (helped by Tolan "Born to Lose" McNeil) of the precision with which we briefly exit the cramped echo chamber for some air into that thankful country song, followed by a blast of Black Mountain stoner metal. How deep is your love, McBean asks (he also crabs and past-tenses "Satan laughed and spread his wings"). In this case, near the deepest I've ever heard. Bottomless in conviction, the natural depth of surviving so much self-imposed hell.

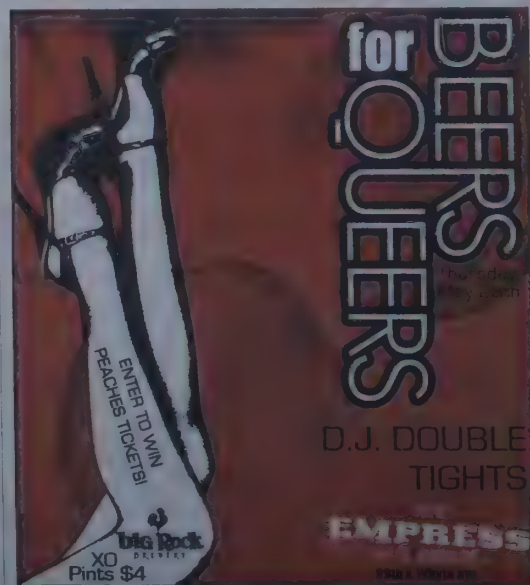
★★★★★

OLD SCHOOL
LED ZEPPELIN
LED ZEPPELIN II (1969)

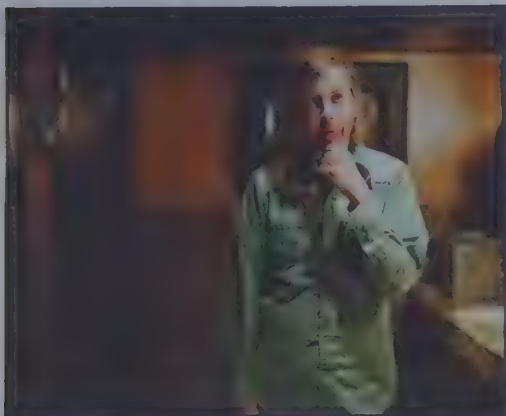
Still, let's look at what's missing in the above — that precise ravenous, moody bullshit of shirtless Robert Plant, which starts with fooling around with the knobs on "Whole Lotta Love" all the way to "Bring It on Home" at the end. "Thank You," while sappier than a fresh oak, still contains those words "mountains crumble to the sea, there would still be you and me," wasted perhaps on tens of thousands of extinguished loves.

I'm guessing you've listened to this one like the rest of us, to exhaustion. But just turn it up too loud, one more time, spark a j. And remember those eyes, staring now practically at another.

★★★★★



Tender Songs Of Gymnasts And Oblivion



"Let's See... There's Ceaucescu... Comaneci... Nastase..." John Vanderslice attempts to think up a few more examples of Romanian Names. PHOTO BY BETH WEINBERG

JOHN VANDERSLICE CAN'T FIND PERFECT LOVE ON ROMANIAN NAMES, BUT HE CAN CREATE THE PERFECT SOUND

Back in February, the music website Stereogum interviewed John Vanderslice about the progress he was making on his forthcoming album *Romanian Names*. At the time, Vanderslice said one of his big goals for the record – his seventh – was

to make a complex but swift-moving pop record on which every song was less than three minutes long (The Beatles' *Magical Mystery Tour* was one of the reference points he kept coming back to.) Well, *Romanian Names* arrived in stores this Tuesday, and of the 12 tracks on the album only five of them come in under 180 seconds. What happened, John?

"I fucked up," he says over the

phone from his home base of San Francisco. "I think I'm just too much in love with intros and outros. If I'd just cut those, I'd have been safe. And the thing is, I really did want everything to be under three minutes! It was one of those constraints that you put yourself under as an artist to shake up your usual way of doing things and change the way you work."

And it's not like *Romanian Names* wound up as some sprawling exercise in self-indulgence either. If it's not quite *Magical Mystery Tour*, there certainly aren't any "Revolution 9's" on the album either. The lyrics are focused, the sound somehow full of texture but clean at the same time – when I tell Vanderslice it reminds me of Midlake's *The Trials of Van Occupanther*, he agrees enthusiastically and goes one better by comparing the track "C&O Canal" to Steely Dan. "I wanted to have that sense of very accomplished players playing very simple music," he says.

Vanderslice has some of the most sensitive ears in indie rock – his San Francisco recording studio Tiny Telephone has hosted such bands as Okkervil River and Beulah, and he's helped produce records for Spoon and The Mountain Goats. (He was the guy, in fact, who helped The Mountain Goats make the transition from their raw, primitively recorded early albums to more pol-

ished but no less urgent discs like *We Shall All Be Healed* and *The Sunset Tree*.)

"I definitely go into each record with strong ideas of how I want it to sound," he says, "especially when it comes to the role of distortion. That's almost the key designator of rock 'n' roll energy: distorted instruments, distorted guitars. Distortion is almost a smearing device that changes the balance of every single instrument; it's a very powerful tool as long as you know what you're doing. *Emerald City*, the record I made before *Romanian Names*, was very, very distorted – we didn't have to do many overdubs on it because the distortion kind of knocked out everything else. The record before that, *Pixel Revolt*, we set out to make a very harmonious, baroque orchestral pop record. And on this one, we knew we wanted to make it a very hi-fi recording. We wanted it to sound really precise."

Ironically, though, the songs themselves are about disharmony, about pieces not fitting together. If Vanderslice had to slap a label on it, he'd call *Romanian Names* an album about the difficulties of being in love. "And not just in love," he says. "It's about the difficulties of being in human relationships in general. There are songs like 'D.I.A.L.O.' which is about a sort of disturbing mentor-like relationship. I do think it's difficult to be

in love, though. It's a very valuable and sweet human construct, but it's very problematic too!"

If people find love in *Romanian Names*, it's a fleeting thing – the title track is a short, heartbreaking tale of an Olympic gymnast too dedicated to her training to allow romance into her life. Instead, music itself seems like a more reliable source of joy as far as Vanderslice is concerned: the harsh pulse of the nyckelharpa that runs through "Hard Times" or the West African-inspired percussion on "C&O Canal."

"It's like that Art Deco lamp you scored at the antique store," he says, "and which makes you so happy every time you look at it – you think, 'I'm so lucky to have found that.' There are only so many chords to choose from and a finite number of melodic progressions you can make, but sometimes you find just the right combination, and it's so easy, you didn't suffer over them, you didn't have to re-record them, it just happened. Those songs are maybe one out of 10. For some reason, on this record, 'Oblivion' really makes me happy."

"Oblivion makes me happy": in some ways, it's the perfect Vanderslice lyric. Hell, I half-expect to see it inscribed on the family crest.

Romanian Names (Dead Oceans)
is in stores now.

MUSIC BUZZ • MUNICIPAL HAPPENINGS | 465 words

Bidding Gilbert Goodbye



**WILDLIFE FISH GRIWKOWSKY
THE LOCAL ARTS SCENE
WILL KEENLY FEEL THE LOSS
OF GILBERT BOUCHARD'S
KINDNESS AND DEDICATION**

There are a number of us who would like a last chance to thank Gilbert Bouchard for being so kind, for saying and writing so many encouraging words about the arts scene. Gilbert made a difference, and I wonder if he knew that or, knowing it, needed to know how much his enthusiasm mattered to emerging artists. I feel this personally, with an extremely sad heart.

The last time he interviewed Tim Rechner and me, Gilbert talked about how depressing it was that his deadlines were so early in order to meet the weekend print run – before midweek, if I recall. He mentioned the

increasing rarity with which he was getting to see the final-version gallery shows he would then so gracefully write about.

I thought about his intentions and diminishing hopes a lot during the recent call for a coup d'état in arts journalism, where debate raged for weeks about the effectiveness of the established critical scene and whether arts writers had a duty to be vicious. Which Gilbert wasn't, of course. I especially wondered why we were obsessing about critics instead of the actual work. It reminded me of blaming the Democrats for George W. Bush's failings.

First time I ever met Gilbert, he walked into *The Gateway*, handing us a cake. For no reason except his unusual kindness, the student-paper alumnus decided to drop by layout one night and tell us a number of friendly things that, indeed, encouraged us onward, and outward too. I liked the cheerful way Gilbert did his work, especially in the context of the larger, bitchier world in which I've hissed with the chorus so often.

As in the passing of Joe Bird, you should know there's now one fewer

person protecting your back. Gilbert, we would have loved your jovial face around longer. But I know how these things go. Thanks for everything.

News on the closing *Southside Sound* front, which dovetails nicely with the fate of the Garneau Theatre block businesses. Locating in roots guru Peter Sutherland's old nest just east of Calgary Trail will be Vivid Print, the artist-friendly, multimedia print shop with all the silky textures. This happens July 1, while the Garneau complex hopes to attract national chains, possibly a fourth coffee shop in a fastball-throw radius, which I can't see competing with the specific chi-chi/college/hippie niches of Da Capo, Sugarbowl, and Remedy.

In a brief conversation with Vivid Print's schemer Markie (Moose) Wilson, he brought up an exciting possibility of turning vacant Whyte storefronts into placeholder galleries until they could be rented again – a trick which I saw with me own peepwork wonderfully in Seattle. This is another example of how recessions are good for art. Angst helps, too.

SARAH CAMERON
owner

780.989.0204

9916 81 avenue, Edmonton AB
back alley entrance



the
votes are in...
and the results are tight

from
WORST NEW TREND
TO **BEST FETISHWEAR**
we give you all the top threes of 2009

Smile Because You Live In Edmonton

AFTER A WEEK IN TORONTO, IT'S EASIER TO APPRECIATE THE "BESTS" WE HAVE AT HOME

Flying back to Edmonton after spending a week in Toronto, it came home to me that we have a lot to be thankful for the city here on the muddy banks of the North Saskatchewan River.

It's true, Toronto may have more of everything, but more of everything is not necessarily better — traffic

and taxes instantly come to mind. Fine, we aren't the biggest place in the country. We don't have the tallest buildings, or the most billionaires. We don't have any big league baseball or basketball teams, an efficient public transportation system, or, sadly, Toronto's excellent daily newspapers.

But look through *SEE Magazine's* 14th annual "Best of Edmonton" issue — a copy of which you're holding in your hands right now (sorry for the mess we're making of your fin-

gers, by the way), and you'll have to agree that this city has plenty to offer, if you're willing to look for it.

Much-maligned Jasper Avenue may be a tad boring in places, but it's still more appealing than the sad collection of strip joints, tattoo parlours, and bong shops that litter the once-proud Yonge Street. Old Strathcona may be smaller than the faded Kensington Market area of downtown Toronto, but unless you're a big fan of used clothing, Edmonton wins again for this middle-aged Albertan who

prefers to buy things new.

Perhaps Edmontonian restaurateurs could take a few cues from those in the bigger city where better food can be found at cheaper prices, but Toronto also has its stinkers and ripoffs. And for my money, nothing beats the curry soup at Doan's in Edmonton.

Our readers voted in droves for our local newscasters, going so far as to name CTV's Carrie Doll the town's sexiest female (which makes us wonder if they're even listening to

the headlines). Edmonton may be a town where young TV reporters cut their teeth in the business, but in our books, enthusiastic local coverage beats the slick but tired smugness that pervades Toronto's airwaves.

And for the record, the weather in Ontario has also been sucking through its own Victoria Day winter, so quit your whining about the prairies. We're equal on that one.

Smile as you read our readers' picks. Because we still like to do that here.

BEST OF EDMONTON • STAFF PICKS • BY ANDREW PAUL | 239 words

Some Superlatives Just Don't Fit In A Poll

BEST MAKEOUT SPOT



PHOTO BY ANDREW PAUL

WE'VE SPENT WEEKS COUNTING OUR READERS' BALLOTS. IT'S SEE'S TURN NOW TO PICK OUR FAVOURITE EDMONTON DELIGHTS

Best Place To Smoke Dope In Front Of The Cops
420 Protest

Alberta Legislature Grounds
Timing is everything when it comes to getting away with a blatant violation of the Criminal Code. Especially if the offence reeks of premium grade B.C. bud and you're doing it two feet

in front of police officers and their angry tasers. No one really knows where the cannabis occasion known as 420 came from, but every April 20, roughly 300 marijuana enthusiasts congregate on the lawns of the Leg to smoke their weed in peaceful protest for the legalization of the herb they love. And every year, the Edmonton Police Service shows up to mill about the crowd making sure everyone is safe, sound, and not drinking booze. And let's face it: if you're drinking at this event, you deserve what you get.

Best Makeout Spot

Paddle Boats, Hawrelak Park
The pond behind the Hawrelak Park amphitheatre is by far the best place to take that special someone when you're ready to make a move. For \$10 you can rent your own private love boat that is pretty much guaranteed to seal the deal — after all, there's nowhere for that special someone to escape when you casually lean in for some tongue-jousting. This goes double in August during the Lab-att Blues Festival when the sweet sounds from the amphitheatre roll

across the water to create a surreal atmosphere that will make anyone weak in the knees.

Just keep in mind that there are usually children around, so nudity is discouraged. But chances are that everyone else on the water is up to the same tricks as your devilish self.

Best Place To Take Your Dog For Dinner
Doggy Style Deli

15131 Stony Plain Rd.
Some people feel that dogs are satisfied spending their entire lives

munching on the same old Kibbles 'n' Bits. However, if that special four-legged friend starts looking at its food dish with a disdainful stare, it might be time for a change.

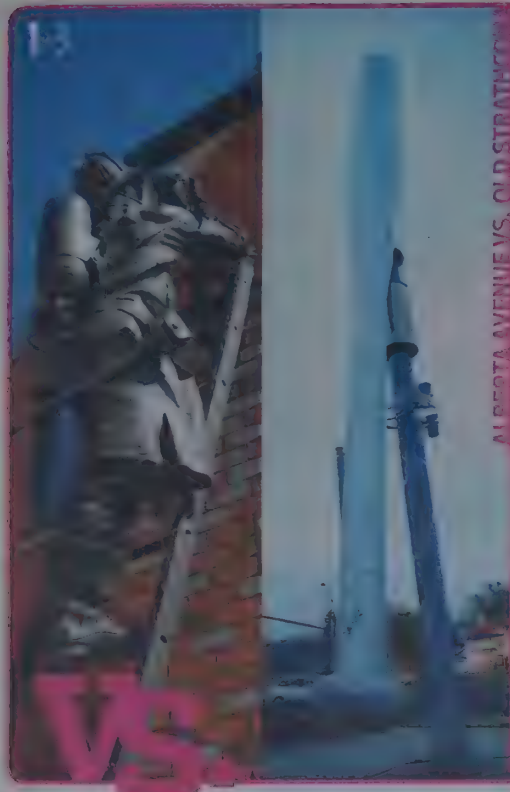
The best place in the city for pooches to get their culinary fix is definitely this Chinese-inspired deli that offers everything from shepherd's pie to birthday cake — yes, you can actually throw a canine birthday soiree in this place. So instead of simply taking Fido on a walk, take him on a lunch date for some tasty shih-tzu stew instead. And if you're



PHOTO BY JOHN ULAN



*Thanks for voting us best independent men's shop from the **Foosh** family*



Formulating any kind of a comparison between the two old Edmonton districts Alberta Avenue and Old Strathcona is a tricky proposition. Many people would lean toward Old Strathcona as the champion of arts, nightlife, and cuisine. However, Alberta Avenue is a strong up-and-comer that presents a world of opportunity for entrepreneurs in all four categories – and with a little help from the city's revitalization program, Whyte Avenue might have a strong rival on its hands. Let's take a closer look, shall we?

Arts

Old Strathcona is home to an ancient arts community by Edmonton standards. From the Walterdale Playhouse to the Varcona Theatre, not to mention the theatrical extravaganza that is the Fringe Festival, Old Strathcona is in the lead. However, we must not overlook the healthy art community thriving on Alberta Ave. After all, Arts on the Ave, The Carrot, Avenue Theatre, and the Nina Haggerty Centre are home to some of the city's finest works of art.

Nightlife

Needless to say, Old Strathcona is legendary for its nightlife action – remember the Oiler riots of 2006? It's the perfect place to find a balance between dance clubs and pubs catering to every taste in town. Well, unless mobs of drunken kids with too much money and no clue how to behave civilly after the bars close isn't your thing. If that's the case, Alberta Avenue might be more your style with its large selection of neighbourhood pubs stocked with reasonably cheap booze, karaoke, and a welcome absence of stupid kids and tourists.

[ALBERTA AVE. NIGHTLIFE](#)

Cuisine

Both strips have cuisine from all over the globe, the difference being that Old Strathcona is getting overrun by the all-consuming franchise machine. (In a district that prides itself on originality, it's disheartening to see Mom and Pop diners giving way to knockoff Mexican joints and half-assed fast Greek food.) We say boo! Sure, Alberta Ave. has its share of franchise eateries, but places like the Banaadiri African Bistro and Tony's Pizza Palace still reign. We'll give this one to the underdog.

[ALBERTA AVE. CUISINE](#)

Monuments

Alberta Avenue has the huge baseball bat located at the 118 Avenue and 97 Street intersection, and though we understand that it's a relic from a design plan from the early 1990s that got lost somewhere along its way, it still represents one of the favourite weapons used by the gangs who frequent the neighbourhood. Old Strathcona's most recognizable monument is Danek Mozdzinski's fireman statue outside the Strathcona farmer's market. Not that we don't absolutely adore the giant aluminum bat, but firefighters who save lives are way cooler.

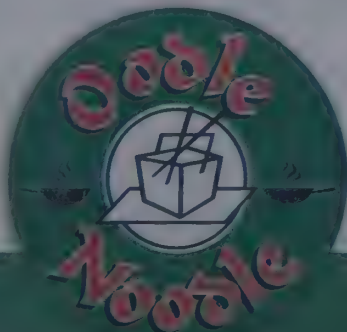
[ALBERTA AVE. MONUMENTS](#)

WINNER: Old Strathcona

According to this wholly unscientific and yet flawless analysis of these two districts, Old Strathcona is the victor, but in the bigger picture Edmonton is pretty lucky to have two neighbourhoods like this. Even if Strathcona's arts community is old and entrenched, Alberta Avenue is a stretch of opportunity for ambitious artists looking to get their start.

We recommend visiting www.avenueninitiative.ca to get the scoop on revitalization opportunities.
—Andrew Paul

best lunch to go, twice.



For a second consecutive year, Oodle Noodle has been deemed 'best lunch to go' by See Magazine. Thank you, thank you!

Southside

10000 101st Ave. #100, Edmonton

West End

10909 101st Ave. #100, Edmonton

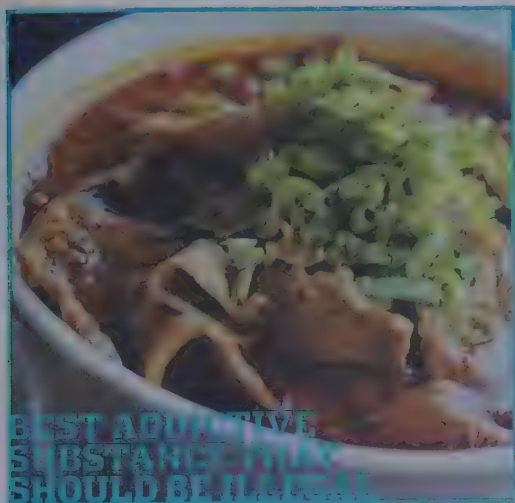


PHOTO BY BEN LEMPHERS

feeling peckish, don't worry: the food is fit for people as well. Co-owner Gino Rodrigues actually feeds the doggy pizza to his kids. Just remember — no cats allowed.

Best Addictive Substance That Should Probably Be Illegal

Beef Satay Soup from
Thanh Thanh
10718-101 St.

Once the first drop lands on your tongue, you'll want to make a giant vat of this sweet nectar of the gods yourself. That is, until you actually look up the ingredients and realize your grocery list is a mile long and even if you bought everything on it, there's no way you'd be able to duplicate this peanut-riddled bowl of vermicelli hellfire they brew in the Thanh Thanh kitchen.

Seriously, they make enough cash at that place to shut down the entire operation during the summer for three weeks of vacation time. During those three long weeks, the usu-

ally respectable patrons are reduced to quivering addicts. You can see them crawling inside the dumpsters behind the restaurant licking old takeout containers and whimpering softly to themselves. Damn you, Thanh Thanh — you've made junkies of us all.

Best Neighbourhood Character

Daniel Corey Booth
Whether it's that crazy cat lady who screams at invisible squirrels or that homeless man who diligently collects your empties from the back alley like clockwork, every neighbourhood has a resident character.

However, the best neighbourhood character in all of Edmonton is "Dancing" Daniel Corey Booth. With more than 5,000 fans on Facebook, Dancing Daniel has become a pseudo-celebrity in the city's west end for religiously busting crazy dance moves up and down 178th Street. One might think his shtick is frivolous fun and games, but recently local law

enforcement has been attempting to put an end to Dancing Dan's fancy footwork — yes, apparently it's 1984 and the EPS just can't get enough of Kenny Loggins, Kevin Bacon, and *Footloose*. What Rev. Shaw Moore was to Ren McCormack, Mike Boyd is to our man Dan. We say keep on dancing, Daniel.

Best Public Art Installation

The World Walk and River Promenade At Louise McKinney Park
Public art installations have always carried a lot of baggage when it comes to justifying which exhibits deserve public funding, so we'll refrain from judging the artistic merit of the installations in The Places Art & Design in Public Places Walking Tour. However, with some of the projects receiving upwards of \$100,000, it's understandable that some taxpayers might be concerned.

This is why we're going to give the title of Best Public Art Installation to the Louise McKinney Riverfront Park Development Legacy Project. This project consists of poems about Edmonton and its citizens' connection to the environment that are engraved on metal bands and fastened to existing lampposts along The World Walk and River Promenade at Louise McKinney Park. Just think of the number of poems the city could have in every neighbourhood if they had \$100,000 to spend on local poets and their silver pens.

Best Entrance To Purple City

St. Joseph's Basilica
10044-113 St.
Word of this ethereal plane travels down the grapevine from older siblings and their friends. "Oh man, that's the trippiest shit ever," they would say. And indeed it was until we permanently scarred our retinas on those white-hot lights. But regardless of the health implications, a trip to Purple City is a pilgrimage and



PHOTO BY BEN LEMPHERS

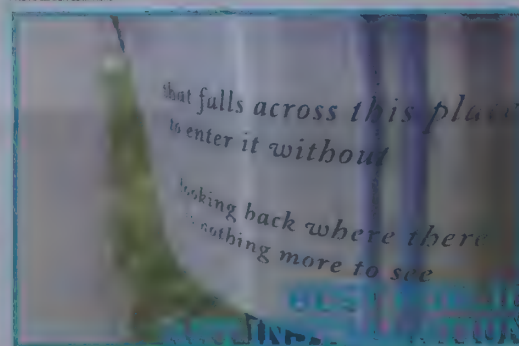
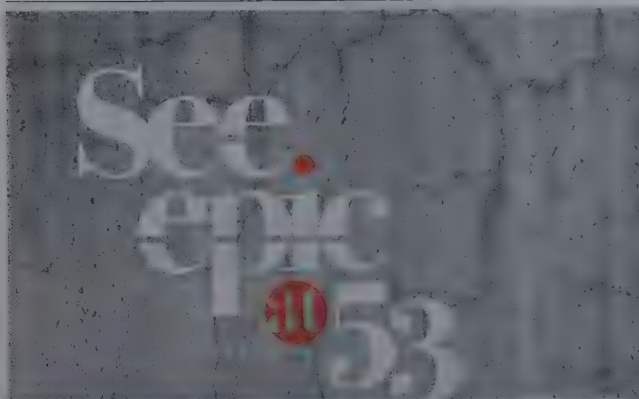


PHOTO BY BEN LEMPHERS

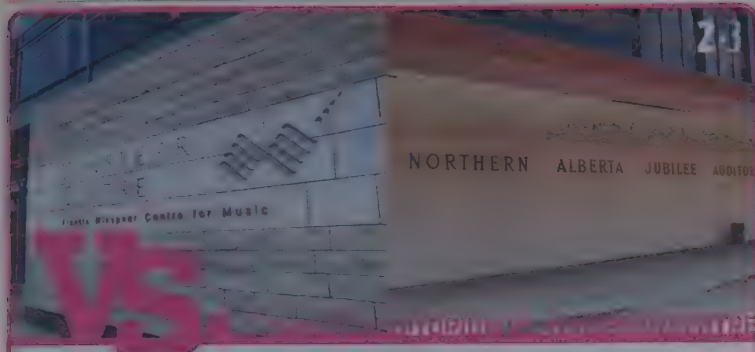


GET YOURS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE | TWO DAYS ONLY

All of the photographs, from SEE's Intersections gallery will go on sale in a silent auction with all proceeds going to the Edmonton Food Bank and the Stollery Children's Hospital.

10248 - 106St. Edmonton (latitude 53) | Friday May 22, 10am to 6pm | Saturday May 23, 12pm to 5pm
(please bring a food bank donation)





In 1957 the provincial government built the Jubilee Auditorium as a gift to Albertans so that we may enjoy and foster the arts in our community. But if the idea was to provide a venue to attract world-renowned acts to the city, why did Senator Tommy Banks and his cohorts at the Winspear Centre feel it necessary to build a rival concert hall of equal grandeur, right in the heart of the city?

Was it really to provide a better stage for musical performances, or was it simply a retirement project for an aging musician and his medical buddy with a generous spirit – generous enough, in fact, to qualify as the single largest private donation to a performing arts facility in Canadian history?

Whatever the reason, Edmonton is blessed to have both of these facilities, but naturally SEC can't leave it at that. Nope, we're pit these two titans of live entertainment against each other and see which one's still standing to take a certain call.

Seating

This should be an easy one, as the Jubilee's main auditorium seats 2,515 patrons, precisely 599 more than the 1,916 in the main floor and three balcony sections at the Winspear's Enmax Hall.

But not so fast! Its classic 19th-century shoebox design, with its four levels of seating, provides the Winspear audience with a more intimate experience. The Winspear also gets points for its staggered seating system, which vastly improves sightlines.

ADVANTAGE: WINSPEAR

Functional Space

Both venues offer space over and

above the main auditoriums that can be rented for functions. The Winspear boasts the Studio, which can fit 250 people and makes a pretty badass rehearsal space, according to Mick Jagger and his Rolling Stones. The Landmark Group Founders' Room will fit 60 people and the three lobbies – the Main Floor Lobby, the Dress Circle Lobby, and the Upper Circle Lobby will squeeze 600, 200 and 300 respectively.

The Jubilee, meanwhile, has seen several renovation projects add to its impressive quantity of usable space. With its neutral colour scheme, the Banquet Room oozes comfort for the 160 dinner guests it can hold and the Meeting Room can seat 60 people comfortably, not to mention the three lobby spaces that can fit about 750 people each. And with the addition of the Luxury Suite and the Rehearsal Hall, we say the Jube's renos have paid off.

ADVANTAGE: JUBILEE

Parking/Transit

The Jubilee might sport a new carpark, but trying to leave that concrete tower after a show is enough to drive a person to the brink of madness – as is trying to escape the subterranean bunker beneath the Winspear, come to think of it.

But when we look at the public transit service available for each venue, the Winspear comes out on top. With the entrance (or exit) to Churchill Station popping right up into the Winspear box office, it sure beats the outdoor trek from University Station to the Jubilee – especially on those freezing winter nights.

ADVANTAGE: WINSPEAR

Programming

This is where the competition gets tough. The Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and Pro Coro Canada call the Winspear home, and it doesn't hurt that the Davis Concert Organ makes up a large portion of the 'Spear's backdrop.

However, you won't see the Alberta Ballet or the Edmonton Opera anywhere but at the Jubilee. And looking back over the years, The Rolling Stones may have used the Winspear's Studio for a weekend, but in 1974, KISS kicked off their first world tour at the Jube. Essentially, the Jubilee clinches the theatre and dance category, but the Winspear has music locked up. Sorry ... we can't decide.

ADVANTAGE: DRAW

Acoustics

Although we can't pass judgment on the two venues' program, we can vouch that the acoustics system in the Winspear (designed by Artec Consultants from New York) rocks the Jube's world. The sound in the Winspear is superb thanks to the acoustic canopy that reflects sounds from the stage down onto the players and out toward the audience, where the combination of curtains, reflectors, and baffled walls ensures your ears get the biggest bang for your buck.

ADVANTAGE: WINSPEAR

WINNER: Winspear

Well, there you have it: the Winspear sounds better, is more accessible, and has a better seating arrangement. But there's still no way we're going to miss The Blind Boys of Alabama when they play the Jube this June. —Andrew Paul

BEST ENTRANCE TO PURPLE CITY



PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON



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PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON

rite of passage for many Edmonton youth.

For those of you who have never seen Purple City, here's what you have to do: go to St. Joseph's when it's dark and find the halogen lights that shine onto the church walls from the lawn in front. Then tape your eyelids open and plant your skull on top of the searing light and stare religiously into the white brilliance for no less than a full minute. The rest is history — lift your head, remove the tape (if you like), and watch as the city melts into a purple aura of its physical self. Man, that is the trippiest shit ever.

Best Place To Survive The Nuclear Apocalypse

McKenzie Ravine Bomb Shelter
Fortunately we don't have to worry about the Reds dropping an H-bomb on our back step anymore. However, on the off-chance that George W. Bush was right about a bunch of cave-dwellers wanting to sneak an atom bomb into our midst, the fallout shelter located in the McKenzie Ravine near 142nd Street is the best place to survive a nuclear holocaust.

This Cold War relic was commissioned in 1953 by former mayor Bill Hawrelak in anticipation of Jasper Avenue becoming ground zero. Back then plebes like us would have been turned away at the door to make sure that only the elite political class would survive to breed and reemerge to restart civilization. However, Edmonton's Department of Civil De-

fence has long since abandoned the site to the history books. Just keep in mind that the front entrance is welded shut, so you'll have to use the emergency exit to get inside.

As for its location, I think I'll keep that to myself. Good luck, suckers.

Best Place To Pretend You Can Still Smoke Indoors

Co Co Di

10160-100A St.

It's been just over a year since the city's smokers were banished to the

ice floes of dying social norms (located five metres from any public entrance), but there's still one place where nicotine freaks can go to relive the days when they were allowed to cultivate their tumors unmolested.

Co Co Di Restaurant is a shisha bar in the heart of downtown (it'll have its grand reopening on July 1, 2009) where you can devour tasty Lebanese cuisine while puffing on a hookah. The smouldering fruit leaf/molasses mixture is a hell of a lot healthier than tobacco, and if you put your

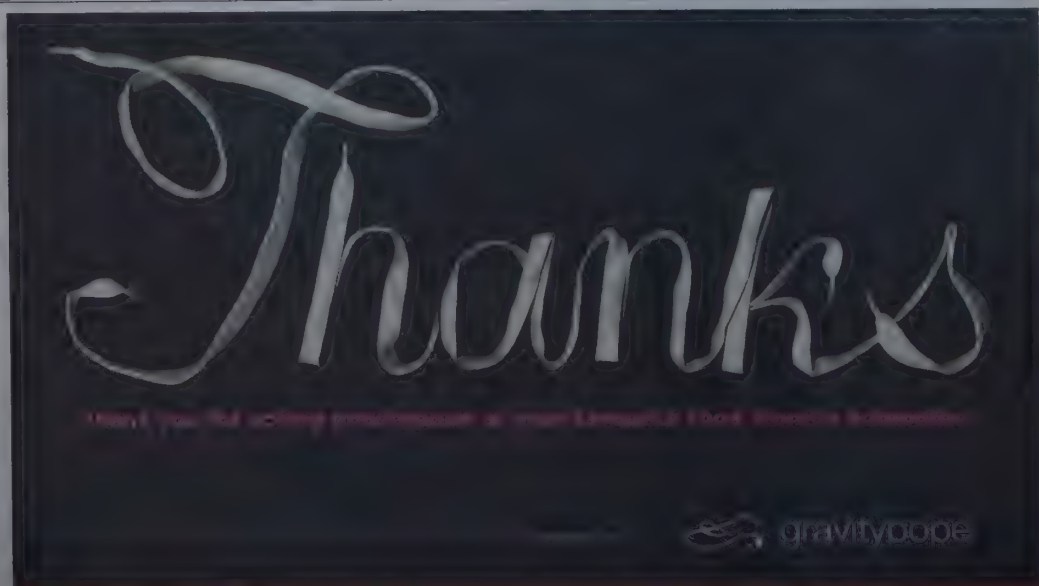
mind to it you can actually convince yourself that you're getting your fix even though the nicotine levels are actually much lower than traditional tobacco. Did we mention they have six different flavours?

Best Place To Lament The Loss Of Precious Green Space

Churchill Square
What better way to celebrate a city's centennial birthday than to rip out the foliage and grass that make up the central public space of our com-

munity and cover it with cold, grey concrete?

That's what happened to Churchill Square in October 2004 when the grass and trees were removed to build a giant concrete pad for no good reason at all. Well, I suppose those terrible trees must have wreaked havoc on the jugglers at the annual Street Performers Festival, and God knows how many overpriced food samples from A Taste of Edmonton were ruined by errant leaves dropping onto patrons' plates. As if *that's* an



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PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON

excuse.

Best Gathering Place For Bikers

Tim Hortons
10519 Whyte Ave

These hogs are sick, and we're not
talking about swine flu. Nope, these
beasts are all machine and as gnarly
as the road warriors who ride them.
Whether you're a bike buff or just
someone who likes their eardrums

ruptured from time to time, the Tim
Hortons on Whyte is your best bet to
check out the city's hottest two wheel
monster machines.

Just remember: even though you
think the domino effect you see in
the movies when a row of motor-
cycles gets knocked over is funny,
you're apt to leave in tears if you
try to pull that stunt here. Come to
think of it, you might not even have
time to cry before your face is intro-

duced to the molecular makeup of
the asphalt parking lot.

Best Piece Of Missing Architecture

Central Pentecostal
Tabernacle Church

Formerly at 1605 107 Ave.

Edmonton has a reputation as a
boomtown and even though booms
are good for the economy, they aren't
necessarily as good for our architec-
ture. We all know the terrible conse-
quences of cheap construction and
slack building codes - unless you've
forgotten about the MacEwan fires
in 2007. This half-assed construc-
tion makes our city look like shit, so
when a piece of solid craftsmanship
bites the dust in the name of boom-
town progress, it's shameful.

That's what happened to the Cen-
tral Pentecostal Tabernacle Church.
The church, once the largest church
in the Pentecostal Assemblies of
Canada, was finished in 1972 with
the completion of its giant pyramid
building. Its design, conceived by
Peter Hemingway, was enough to in-
spire the lovely style of the Muttart
Conservatory. But alas, as with any
boomtown, there isn't much time to
dwell on the past when there's more
money to be made in the immediate
future.

City Service Most In Need Of Improvements

Public Transit

We were going to say that Edmon-

deVine Wines
and Spirits

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CITY SERVICE MOST IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENTS

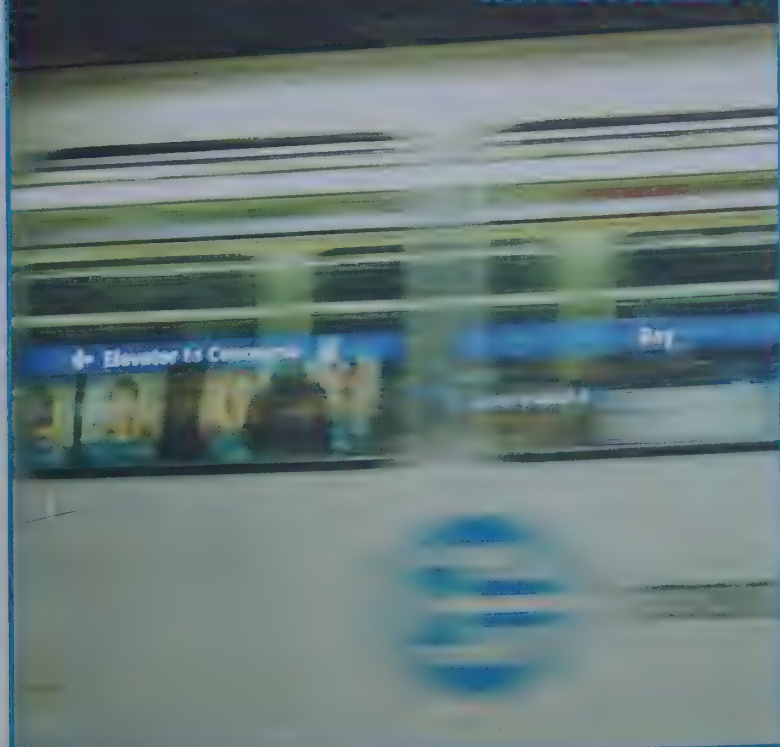


PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON

ton's pockmarked roads need the most attention because if one more of those freaking potholes swallow the front end of our car, we're going to freak.

However, we decided at the last minute that public transit needs a little more love. Sure, two new LRT stations open up in April, but let's be real – Edmonton's dirty little stretch of tracks is embarrassing for a city approaching a population of one million. Calgary, for instance, has four times the ridership and LRT infrastructure as we do. It wasn't always that way, but somewhere along the line, city council forgot that as a city expands, so must its public transit system.

Better yet, how about a little foresight? Why not try planning ahead for a change and have the urban sprawl catch up to the LRT so we don't have to rip up mature neighbourhoods or spend exorbitant amounts of cash building the LRT underground? The bonus here is that if public transit received a little TLC, our crater-ridden roads would be spared some of the savage beating they're receiving now. Two birds with one stone – now we're talking.

Best Place To Hang With Your Grandparents

Edmonton Film Society, Royal Alberta Museum
12845-102 Ave.

Most of us love our grandparents to death, but when it comes to tak-

ing them out for a night on the town, there are only so many activities that both parties will enjoy over and above a tasty meal at the Olive Garden followed by an intense game of canasta over tea and scones. Let's face it: Grandma doesn't get the same kicks you do out of shotgunning brewskis atop the High Level Bridge, and when was the last time Grandpa asked you to hit the clubs to help him bring sexy

back?

Fortunately the Edmonton Film Society has the answer with their weekly remounts of classic films at the Royal Alberta Museum Auditorium. You can see the greats, from Audrey Hepburn to Gary Cooper, on the big screen again and maybe even begin to understand what Granny and Gramps mean when they say, "They don't make movies like they used to."

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It seems you can't pick up the paper without hearing hippies, politicians, and alt-weekly journalists talk about how great public transit is for the environment and the city, but when you talk with your friends about the bus, the first thing they'll discuss is how they wish they could afford a car. With this in mind, we've decided to throw the 40 FT New Flyers (the most common model of bus used by the ETS) and a 1996 Pontiac Grand Prix into our Versus ring of death to see which one emerges as the champion of our city's commuter system.

Horsepower

It's been a long time since I've had to push a bus out of the snowbank (the last time was in Grade 10, but that doesn't count because it was a short bus), which isn't surpris-

ing considering that the 40 FT New Flyers buses have 280 diesel-huffing horses under the hood. As for pushing cars out of a ditch, well, I don't like reliving those cold, miserable memories. Let's face it: the Prix's 160 horses just aren't a match.

ADVANTAGE: BUS

Convenience

A transit passenger can wait anywhere from zero to 30 minutes for a ride, and buses stop running around one a.m. We say that sucks. The Prix is way ahead in convenience compared to its doddling public transit counterpart – if the Prix starts in cold weather, that is.

ADVANTAGE: GRAND PRIX

Passenger Room

The bus has two wheelchair posi-

tions, 37 seats, and enough standing room for another 36 passengers. That works out to roughly 2.3 square feet per passenger – not too shabby. There's only room for five in the Prix, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. We'll give this one to the bus, but please read on.

ADVANTAGE: BUS

Passengers

The bus may have won for passenger room, but that's also what makes it lose this category. Riding the bus means forcible interaction with some of the city's most unsavoury characters. The best part about the Prix is the only drunken assholes I have to deal with are the ones I invited inside. Personal vehicle equals no random strangers barfing on my shoes – just good

friends.

ADVANTAGE: GRAND PRIX

Smell

Of the thousands of sundry scents one might find on the bus, chances are the aromatic menu will include traces of urine, body odour, and various colognes and perfumes. If only someone could capture and market that scent, eh? Admittedly all of these scents can also be found in the Prix. But when the aroma gets to be uncomfortable for myself or my passengers, I have the licence to do uncork some air freshener.

ADVANTAGE: GRAND PRIX

Cost

Despite the 2008 increase in price for a monthly bus pass to \$74.25 from \$66.50, it still beats paying

\$165 a month for insurance plus gas.

ADVANTAGE: BUS

Travel Time

It can take 90 minutes for a bus to traverse the #8 route between Mill Woods and Abbottsfield. That's a really long time when you have important things to do and don't plan ahead. The car wins hands down in this one – unless, of course, you're stuck driving behind a bus. God, that's the worst!

ADVANTAGE: GRAND PRIX

WINNER: Grand Prix

Sorry, tree-huggers and transit buffs, but the Grand Prix leaves the bus far behind. The city's transit system just can't meet the hustle-and-bustle needs of this... er... boom town? –Andrew Paul



The staff at Gordon Price Music would like to thank SEE Magazine and all of its readers for voting Gordon Price Music Edmonton's

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BEST OF EDMONTON • READERS' PICKS

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EDMONTONIA

Best Morning Radio Show

- (1) *The Garner Andrews Show* (Sonic)
- (2) *The Paul Brown Show* (The Bear)
- (3) *Pepper and Dylan* (The Bounce)

Best Radio Personality

- (1) Garner Andrews (Sonic)
- (2) Peter Brown (CBC)
- (3) Yukon Jack (The Bear)

Best TV Weatherperson

- (1) Josh Classen (CTV)
- (2) Nicola Crosby (Global)
- (3) Mike Sobel (Global)

Best TV News Anchor

- (1) Lynda Steele & Gord Steinke (Global)
- (2) Carrie Doll (CTV)
- (3) Daryl Macintyre (CTV)

Best Local TV Station

- (1) Global
- (2) CityTV
- (3) CTV

Best Local Radio Station

- (1) Sonic
- (2) CKUA
- (3) The Bounce

Best Cultural Institution

- (1) Royal Alberta Museum
- (2) Winspear Centre
- (3) Edmonton Art Gallery

Best Use Of Taxpayers' Money

- (1) LRT expansion
- (2) Fixing roads
- (3) Police service

Best Local Politician

- (1) Stephen Mandel
- (2) Linda Duncan
- (3) Don Iveson

Best Local Website

- (1) www.edmonton.ca
- (2) www.edmovieguide.com
- (3) www.oilers.nhl.com

Best Local Festival

- (1) Fringe Festival
- (2) Heritage Days
- (3) Edmonton Folk Music Festival

Favorite Edmontonian

- (1) Stephen Mandel
- (2) Daryl Katz
- (3) Michael Phair

Best Local Athlete

- (1) Fernando Pisani
- (2) Jennifer Heil
- (3) Ricky Ray

Best Green Space

- (1) River Valley
- (2) Hawrelak Park
- (3) Mill Creek Ravine

Best Local Music Act

- (1) Shout Out Out Out Out
- (2) Faunts
- (3) 10 Second Epic

Most Creative Local Edmontonian

- (1) Michael Phair
- (2) Cadence Weapon
- (3) Steve Tambellini

Best New Trends

- (1) Going green
- (2) Twitter
- (3) Coffeehouses

Worst Trends

- (1) Twitter
- (2) Skinny jeans
- (3) Big sunglasses

Scariest Intersection

- (1) Calgary Trail/23 Avenue
- (2) 97 Street/118 Avenue
- (3) Yellowhead Trail/149 Street

Best Place To People Watch

- (1) Whyte Avenue
- (2) West Edmonton Mall
- (3) Churchill Square

Best Place To Take Visitors

- (1) Whyte Avenue
- (2) West Edmonton Mall
- (3) River Valley

Sexiest Edmonton Male

- (1) Sheldon Souray
- (2) Josh Classen
- (3) Craig McTavish



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104 (5-22)

100 (3-21)

BEST OF EDMONTON • WINNERS! • BY TRENT WILKIE | 480 words

Mom Is Sexy, Say *SEE* Readers



Whatta Doll! | CTV co-anchor Carrie Doll won the "sexiest woman" category in this year's *SEE* Best of Edmonton poll. Hot-cha-cha! PHOTO BY BEN LEMPHERS

CTV NEWSWOMAN CARRIE DOLL IS SURPRISED BUT FLATTERED BY HER STATUS AS EDMONTON'S SEXIEST PERSON

The message Carrie Doll left on my answering machine sums up her reaction to being voted Edmonton's Sexiest Edmontonian: "Sorry I missed your call, I was doing something sexy like picking up my child's toys."

When I finally reach her for real and talked shop on the art of interviewing someone about being sexy, we settle into figuring out the perplexing mystery of how her victory occurred.

"First of all, I want to know if it was my husband who sent in all the ballots," she jokes. "Honestly, I'm flattered, I'm really flattered that Edmontonians would think of me in this way. However, I still see myself as a small-town girl just trying to be a good mom and a good wife and being good at my job."

When Doll isn't busy being a sexy mom (sorry, Carrie), she keeps herself occupied by being a journalist. Her role as co-anchor for the noon and 6 p.m. CTV newscast puts her in the front row for what is going on in Edmonton. Juggling these roles (mom, wife and journalist) has her looking up to someone who knew a lot about doing many things

at once: Lois Hole.

"There was a woman that I will forever admire," she says. "She seemed to strike the right balance with everything. She was a mom, she was a grandmother, she was our Lieutenant-Governor ... she did so many things and she always seemed to get it right with the right balance. Who else do you know in the legislature that would make it okay to hug them? You would sit beside her at events and she would talk about the kindergarten classes that she visited that day and how the students reacted to her and then she'd talk about what she was doing with gardening. She had her hands in so many areas of life."

In the end, there isn't any magical spell that keeps Doll at her best. She doesn't have a shaman on her speed dial, nor is her home built atop the fountain of youth. It's just plain old-fashioned hard work. "I take health and fitness very seriously," Doll says. "I work out at least five times a week, and I do that because it keeps my mind clear. If I don't work out, I'll go on to read the news and it will be a disaster. The one thing I have to admit that I've invested in over the years is a trainer because if I went to the gym to try to do it on my own, I'd just talk the whole time."

Now all she has to do is deal with the lineup to talk to her.

Sexiest Edmonton Female

- (1) Carrie Doll
- (2) Melissa Dominelli
- (3) Liann Cameron

GETTING OUT

Best Dance Club

- (1) Halo 10538 Jasper Ave
- (2) Blues on Whyte 10329 82 Ave
- (3) New City Suburbs 10081 Jasper Ave

Best Live Venue

- (1) Starlite Room 10030 102 St
- (2) Blues on Whyte 10329 82 Ave
- (3) The Pawn Shop 10549 82 Ave

Best Bar

- (1) The Black Dog 10425 82 Ave
- (2) Hudson's Tap House

Several locations

- (3) Sherlock Holmes Several locations

Best Neighborhood Pub

- (1) The Black Dog 10425 82 Ave
- (2) Empress Ale House 9912 82 Ave
- (3) Sherlock Holmes Several locations

Best Gay Bar

- (1) Buddy's 11725B Jasper Ave
- (2) Play 10220 103 St
- (3) Prism 10524 101 St

Best Comedy Club

- (1) Comic Strip 1646-8882 170 St
- (2) Laugh Shop 1105-6606 137 Ave
- (3) Comedy Factory

408-3414 Gateway Blvd

Best Karaoke Club

- (1) Rosario's 1175C 108 Ave
- (2) Rosie's 6258 99 St
- (3) B Street 1181 111 Ave

Best Pool Hall

- (1) Billiard Club 10505 82 Ave
- (2) Metro 10250 106 St
- (3) Schanks 9927 178 St

Best Gym

- (1) Kinsmen Sports Centre

9100 Waterdale Hill

- (2) YMCA Downtown 10211 102 Ave
- (3) Club Fit Several locations

Best Place to Get Pampered

- (1) Perugia 8211 104 St
- (2) Eveline Charles Several locations
- (3) Swizzlesticks 11104 82 Ave

Best Internet Café

- (1) Remedy 8631 109 St
- (2) Naked on Jasper 10354 Jasper Ave
- (3) Cafe Dabar 10916 82 Ave

Best Yoga Studio

- (1) Yoga Loft 10309 82 Ave
- (2) Lion's Breath 206-10350 124 St
- (3) Shanti Yoga 10026 102 St

Best Place To Skateboard

- (1) Legislature 10800 97 Ave
- (2) Millwoods Skate Park 7207 28 Ave
- (3) River Valley

Best Place To Pick Someone Up

- (1) Whyte Avenue
- (2) Purple Onion 8032 104 St
- (3) Library Several locations

BEST OF EDMONTON - WINNERS! - BY MACKENZIE SINCLAIR | 344 words

Lovin' The LRT



More Stations! More Tracks! More! More! | SEE readers don't mind paying for a more extensive train system.
PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON

LRT EXPANSION VOTED THE BEST USE OF TAXPAYER'S DOLLARS IN OUR ANNUAL EDMONTON SURVEY

Edmonton's public transit system might be far from perfect, but things are looking up. The city is putting a great deal of money and planning into LRT expansions, with plans to create six new LRT lines that extend into the northwest, northeast, east, south, southeast, and west ends of the city.

Edmontonians are behind the expansion, if our annual readers survey is anything to go by. LRT expansion was named the Best Use of Taxpayer's Money in this year's SEE Magazine Best of Edmonton contest.

"Boys love trains," says Brendan Van Alstine, a member of Transit Riders' Union of Edmonton (TRUE), when asked why LRT expansion is the best use of taxpayer's money. "There's this interesting psychological effect that happens when you build a train as opposed to running a bus, where people just for some reason find trains to be more appealing."

Wayne Mandryk, the city's manager of transportation proj-

ects is particularly excited about the LRT's south expansions, which by April 2010 will extend down to Century Park.

In late-April, two new stations at McKernan/Belgravia and the university's South Campus opened and over 3,000 people came to see the new stations on its opening day.

Mandryk believes this was a sign that the residents of Edmonton want the LRT to move into residential neighborhoods so that there is better access to the trains.

"I think Edmontonians are now adopting a different view of having LRT in their area," he says, "and I think what you'll see is a lot of people that are anxious to see it coming into their areas."

After the south extension, in 2011, the city will open a station in Gorman, north of the Clareview station (which has been the LRT's northern terminus since it opened in 1981).

There are also plans to extend the LRT to MacEwan's downtown campus and NAIT. This means the LRT will be linked to all of Edmonton's three major post-secondary institutions. The city plans to complete this project by 2014.



the street style issue



You know you look damn good!

SEE Magazine Street Style Issue

On Thursday, SEE will be photographing readers dressed to kill. (stunt, & more on page 10)

Photos will shot at Bamboo Ballroom from 11am till 7pm.

Email style@see.greatwest.ca (use the subject "SEE Street Style Outfit") to guarantee a spot.

Act now: Limited spots

DEADLINE TO RSVP 5PM June 1, 2009

Walk-ins welcome if time permits. or just come by and cheer us on.



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BEST OF EDMONTON • WINNERS! • BY JEFF SAMSONOW | 438 words

It's Easy Being Green!

YOU VOTED "GOING GREEN" AS THE CITY'S BEST NEW TREND. NOW ASSORTED EDMONTONIANS SHOW HOW THEY ARE ECO-FRIENDLY

Green has long been a motivating colour. It's represented land, money, and now a need to be seen as environmentally-friendly. This year, Edmontonians voted for "going green" as the best new trend in SEE's "Best of Edmonton" poll.

"I really enjoy finding alternative uses for things that would otherwise be thrown away," says Nicola Harper. She designs GEEKWARE, jewelry and accessories made from old

circuit boards, computer keys and trashed e-waste. Harper also helped get the city's Reuse Centre ready for customers two years ago. She continues to stop in for packaging materials such as styrofoam peanuts and gift bags.

Harper's always found it easy being green. "I'm a big fan of recycling and reuse," she says. "It's part of how I was brought up, to appreciate what you have and to use and reuse everything."

Along with the Reuse Centre, where everything from bags, buttons, carpet samples, and jars can be found, the City of Edmonton runs a Master Composter program (Har-

per's done it) that can show you how to have the greenest thumb in your neighbourhood.

Another sign of the city going green is increased transit use. Edmonton Transit is also seeing more people riding the bus and LRT. By the end of March this year, people had hopped on and off 780,000 times, an increase over the first three months of 2008. While the city's population has boomed and post-secondary students are riding with U-Passes, paid with school fees, that doesn't completely explain the increase in riders. More people are buying monthly passes and tickets, a larger amount than the

increase in ridership, and actively ditching the car. Bosses are getting into the green groove by subsidizing transit passes for employees through the ETS at Work program. One quarter of its riders are new to transit.

For Edmontonians not picking up old boxes of crayons and paperclips at the Reuse Centre, or cramming onto buses and trains, it seems shopping is a way to show their love of the planet.

"Thirty years ago, if you didn't want to use a conventional cream on your face your only alternative might have been olive oil or something like that," laughs Allison Ma-

cLean, owner of Carbon Environmental Boutique.

The 104th Street store sells green products for about every part of the home, including creams and makeup. They also investigate the ingredient list and company background before ordering a product. "That's one of our goals: to make it easy for people to just come in and relax and know that things are the best alternative that's available."

MacLean says that kind of work by her and the staff means people new to the green life can leave some of the gruntwork to them and slowly become eco-friendly.

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old millennium

old millennium

the Funky Fringe

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Edmonton, AB

Swankiest Bathroom

- (1) **Joey's** Several locations
 (2) **The Fairmont Hotel Macdonald** 10065 100 St
 (3) **Moxie's** Several locations

Skankiest Bathroom

- (1) **Purple Onion** 8032 104 St
 (2) **Strathcona Hotel** 10302 82 Ave
 (3) **Filthy McNasty's** 10511A 82 Ave

Best Art Gallery

- (1) **Art Gallery of Alberta** 2 Enterprise Square
 (2) **Latitude 53** 10248 106 St
 (3) **FAB Gallery** 1-1 Fine Arts Building, University of Alberta

Best Live Theatre

- (1) **The Citadel** 9628 101A Ave
 (2) **Varscona Theatre** 10329 83 Ave
 (3) **The Roxy** 10708 124 St

Best Golf Course

- (1) **Victoria** 12130 River Rd
 (2) **The Ranch** 52516 Range Road 262, Parkland County
 (3) **RedTail Landing** 500 13 Ave, Edmonton International Airport, Nisku

Most Comfortable Movie Theatre

- (1) **North/South Edmonton Common** 14231 137 Ave & 1525 99 St
 (2) **Gameau Theatre** 8712 109 St
 (3) **Scotiabank/WEM** 8770 170 St

Best Place To Get A Pint

- (1) **Empress Ale House** 9912 82 Ave
 (2) **Hudson's Tap House** Several locations
 (3) **O'Byrne's** 10616 82 Ave

Best Spa

- (1) **Eveline Charles** Several locations
 (2) **Swizzlesticks** 11104 82 Ave
 (3) **Perugia** 8211 104 St

EATS & DRINKS**Best Fries**

- (1) **Dadeo** 10548A 82 Ave
 (2) **Delux Burger Bar** 9682 142 St

(3) The Hat 10251 Jasper Ave**Best Poutine**

- (1) **Delux Burger Bar** 9682 142 St
 (2) **Route 99** 8820 99 St
 (3) **Dadeo** 10548A 82 Ave

Best Burger

- (1) **Delux Burger Bar** 9682 142 St
 (2) **Fat Burger** 1755 102 St
 (3) **The Garage Burger Bar** 10242 106 St

Best Pizza

- (1) **Funky Pickle** Several locations
 (2) **Chicago Deep Dish** Several locations
 (3) **Pharos** 8708 109 St

Best Standby

- (1) **Highlevel Diner** 10912 88 Ave
 (2) **Sugarbowl** 10922 88 Ave
 (3) **Blue Plate Diner** 10145 104 St

Best Perogies

- (1) **Barb and Ernie's** 9906 72 Ave
 (2) **Shumka** Several locations
 (3) **Uncle Ed's** 4824 118 Ave

Best Seafood

- (1) **Billingsgate** 7331 104 St
 (2) **Vons** 10309 81 Ave
 (3) **Jack's Grill** 5842 111 St

Best Coffeehouse

- (1) **Sugarbowl** 10922 88 Ave
 (2) **Steeps** Several locations
 (3) **Remedy** 8631 109 St

Best Vegetarian

- (1) **Café Mosaics** 10844 82 Ave
 (2) **Padmanadi** 10626 97 St
 (3) **Oriental Veggie House** 10586 100 St

Best Patio

- (1) **The Black Dog** 10425 82 Ave
 (2) **Sherlock Holmes** 10012 101A Ave
 (3) **O'Byrne's** 10616 82 Ave

Best Place To Watch Sports

- (1) **Hudson's Tap House** Several locations

- (2) **Elephant & Castle** Several locations
 (3) **Schanks** 9927 178 St

Sexiest Bar Servers

- (1) **Joey's** Several locations
 (2) **The Ranch** 6111 104 St
 (3) **New City** 10081 Jasper Ave

Sexiest Bar Clientele

- (1) **New City** 10081 Jasper Ave
 (2) **Empress Ale House** 9912 82 Ave
 (3) **The Ranch** 6111 104 St

Best Bar Service

- (1) **Empress Ale House** 9912 82 Ave
 (2) **Filthy McNasty's** 2-10511A 82 Ave
 (3) **Urban Lounge** 10544 88 Ave

Best Indian

- (1) **New Asian Village** Several locations
 (2) **Khazana** 10177 107 St
 (3) **Hawell** 10220 103 St

Best Korean

- (1) **Bul-go-gi House** 8813 92 St
 (2) **Lee House** 7904 104 St
 (3) **Korean Village** 7729 85 St

Best Cajun

- (1) **Dadeo** 10548A 82 Ave
 (2) **Louisiana Purchase** 10320 111 St
 (3) **Cajun House** 7 St, Anne Street, St. Albert

Best Japanese

- (1) **Mikado** 10350 109 St
 (2) **Japanese Village** 10126 100 St
 (3) **Kyoto** Several locations

Best Italian

- (1) **Sorrentino's** Several locations
 (2) **Chianti** 10501 82 Ave
 (3) **Sicilian Pasta Kitchen** Several locations

Best Greek

- (1) **Koutouki** Several locations
 (2) **Yiannis** 10444 82 Ave
 (3) **Opa** Several locations

Best Chinese

- (1) **The Lingnan** 10582 104 St

strange city

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THANK YOU EDMONTON!**You've made the last 5 years so much fun!****Love: The Strange City Crew.****PREMIUM BODY ART****precision body piercing****custom tattoos****extensive jewelry selection****Ph:780-628-4813 10522-82 (Whyte) Ave**info@strangecity.ca
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MED was selected as the
2009 BEST OUTDOOR GEAR
STORE by SEE Magazine
Thanks to all our members
who voted for us in the Best of
Edmonton Readers' Survey



- (2) **Sam Wok** Several locations
(3) **Buddy Wonton** 10415 80 Ave

Best Mexican

- (1) **Julio's Barrio** Several locations
(2) **Acajutla** 11302 107 Ave
(3) **Three Amigos** 4035 106 St

Best Thai

- (1) **The King and I** 8208 107 St
(2) **Padthai** 10159 82 Ave
(3) **Bua Thai** 10049 113 St

Best Vietnamese

- (1) **Doan's** Several locations
(2) **Pagolac** Several locations
(3) **Hoang Long** 10715 98 St

Best Desserts

- (1) **Vi's for Pies** 13408 Stony Plain Rd
(2) **Death by Chocolate** Several locations
(3) **Cafe Select** Several locations

Best Organic Food Store

- (1) **Planet Organic** Several locations
(2) **Sunterra** Several locations
(3) **Organic Roots** Several locations

Best Bakery

- (1) **Bee Bell** 10416 80 Ave
(2) **Italian Centre** Several locations
(3) **Cobs** Several locations

Best Deli

- (1) **Italian Centre** Several locations
(2) **Sunterra** Several locations

- (3) **Fife 'n' Dekel** Several locations

Best Steak

- (1) **Vons** 10309 81 Ave
(2) **Ruth's Chris Steak House** 10103 100 St
(3) **Ric's Grill** 14229 23 Ave

Best Donair

- (1) **Queen Donair** Several locations
(2) **Marcos Famous** Several locations
(3) **Charles Smart** Several locations

Best Lunch To Go

- (1) **Oodle Noodle Box** Several locations
(2) **Fife 'n' Dekel** Several locations
(3) **Soul Soup** 10020 101A Ave

Best Breakfast

- (1) **Barb and Ernie's** 9906 72 Ave
(2) **Highlevel Diner** 10912 88 Ave
(3) **Culina** Several locations

Best Martini

- (1) **Devlin's Cocktail Lounge** 10507 82 Ave
(2) **Suede Lounge** 11806 Jasper Ave
(3) **Lux Steakhouse & Bar** 10150 101 St

Best Late-Night Eats

- (1) **Funky Pickle** Several locations
(2) **Marcos Famous** Several locations
(3) **Sam Wok** Several locations

Best Brunch

- (1) **Blue Plate Diner** 10145 104 St
(2) **Barb and Ernie's** 9906 72 Ave
(3) **Highlevel Diner** 10912 88 Ave

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For voting us the best place to buy denim in Edmonton

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bamboo
ballroom

Best High-End Dining

- (1) Hardware Grill 9698 Jasper Ave
- (2) La Ronde 10111 Bellamy Hill
- (3) Jack's Grill 5842 101 St

Best Beer Selection

- (1) Brewsters Several locations
- (2) New Asian Village Several locations
- (3) Sugarbowl Several locations

Best Wine List

- (1) 4th and Vine 11358 104 Ave
- (2) Hardware Grill 9698 Jasper Ave
- (3) Murrieta's 10612 82 Ave

SHOPPING

Best Optical

- (1) Regent Optical Several locations
- (2) Occhiali Eyewear 8115 104 St
- (3) Baker Optical 10025 106 St

Best Beer Store

- (1) Sherbrooke Liquor Store 11819 St. Albert Tr
- (2) Liquor Depot Several locations
- (3) Tops Liquor Store 10768 82 Ave

Best Wine Store

- (1) deVine Wines & Spirits 10111 104 St
- (2) Liquor Depot Several locations
- (3) 4th And Vine 11358 104 Ave

Best Shopping District

- (1) Whyte Avenue
- (2) West Edmonton Mall
- (3) 124 Street

Best Place To Buy Vinyl

- (1) Blackbyrd Myoozik 10442 82 Ave
- (2) Foosh 10544C 82 Ave
- (3) Southside Sound 10342 82 Ave

Best Place To Buy CDs (New)

- (1) HMV Several locations
- (2) Megatunes 10355 82 Ave
- (3) Blackbyrd Myoozik 10442 82 Ave

Best Place To Buy CDs (Used)

- (1) Blackbyrd Myoozik 10442 82 Ave
- (2) Sound Connection Several locations
- (3) Southside Sound 10342 82 Ave

Best Place To Buy DVDs

- (1) HMV Several locations
- (2) Blockbuster Several locations
- (3) Best Buy Several locations

Best Independent Bookstore (New)

- (1) Audreys 10702 Jasper Ave
- (2) Greenwoods 7925 104 St
- (3) Ascendant Books 105-10310 124 St

Best Used Bookstore

- (1) Wee Book Inn Several locations
- (2) Old Strathcona Books 8104 Gateway Blvd
- (3) Books Unlimited 12411 118 Ave

Best Car Stereo Store

- (1) Certified Radio Several locations
- (2) JB's Several locations
- (3) Future Shop Several locations

Best Computer Store

- (1) My Mac Dealer 10441 80 Ave
- (2) Westworld 10333 170 St

(3) A-Computers Several locations

Best Independent Movie Rental Store

- (1) Movie Studio Several locations
- (2) Alternative Video Spot 10050 82 Ave
- (3) The Lobby 10815 82 Ave

Best Art Supply Store

- (1) The Paint Spot 10516 82 Ave
- (2) Delta Art Several locations
- (3) Ink Spot

Best Home Décor Store

- (1) IKEA 1311 102 St
- (2) The Tin Box Several locations
- (3) Chintz & Company 10502 105 Ave

Best Indie Clothing Store (Women)

- (1) Nokomis 10818 82 Ave
- (2) The Bamboo Ballroom 8206 104 St
- (3) Gravity Pope 8220 104 St

Best Indie Clothing Store (Men)

- (1) Foosh 10544C 82 Ave
- (2) Colour Blind 10544 82 Ave

(3) Queue 8216 104 St

Best Vintage Clothing Store

- (1) Divine/Décadence 10441 82 Ave/10760 82 Ave
- (2) Robes & Relics 8210 104 St
- (3) Vespucci 12529 102 Ave

Best Shoe Store

- (1) Gravity Pope 10442 82 Ave
- (2) Divine/Décadence 10441 82 Ave/10760 82 Ave
- (3) Wener's Shoes 10322 Jasper Ave



CULINA CONTEST

THANKS AGAIN!

EDMONTON'S

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...To all the keen boys and girls who voted SONiC the Best of Edmonton!

For the fourth year in a row, you voted SONiC 102.9 Edmonton's Best Radio Station. The Garner Andrews Show the Best Morning Show and Garner Andrews the Best Radio Personality!

And for the first time, SONiC's Liana Cameron was voted the Third Sexiest Female Edmontonian, adding a much-needed touch of style and elegance to this jam-fisted operation.

Thanks (again!) from SONiC 102.9, playing the MOST Modern Rock in Edmonton!

BEST OF EDMONTON • WINNERS! • BY TRENT WILKIE | 463 words

New Challenges Around Every Corner



Everybody Loves Michael | SEE readers respect Michael Phair for his many years on city council, but they might not be aware of his continued efforts on behalf of Edmonton's academic and cultural life. PHOTO BY BEN LEMPHERS

THE RELENTLESS MICHAEL PHAIR IS STILL ONE OF EDMONTON'S FAVOURITES — AND WE'VE GOT THE POLL RESULTS TO PROVE IT!

If you could harness Michael Phair to a power plant, perhaps through a complex system of treadmills and electrodes, the world's energy crisis would become a distant memory. After leaving city council in 2007 Phair, 58, has continued his dervish-like lifestyle. This year, SEE readers voted Phair Most Creative Edmontonian and third favourite Edmontonian overall, but since

he's been out of the limelight for a while, he's not sure why Edmontonians continue to love him.

"I'm a bit baffled by it, actually," Phair says. "I think that with my new role [director of community relations at the University of Alberta], I do spend a lot of time in the community and I think some if it is familiarity; people still see me. They'll see me around and my name will pop into their head. Sometimes that's a good thing, they remember me in a positive way... and then again there are some who don't think of me in a positive way at all."

Having already made his mark in the Alberta history books as the first openly gay elected politician in Alberta (Edmonton City Council, 1992-2007) and namesake of the Michael Phair Leadership Award Endowment (an annual prize for U of A students who demonstrate leadership in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community), Phair now has the time to mix his humanitarian efforts with his artistic passions.

"I've been able to do the things that I've always wanted to volunteer for," Phair says. "For example, I'm on the board for the Global Visions

Film Festival. And I don't know anything about films — which is partly why I joined the board. I'm interested in learning a little bit more, as well as being part of a film festival that I really believe in."

While he is on to new endeavours, Phair's thoughts are never far away from the city he once worked for. And giving credit where it is due, Phair sees very positive growth in certain areas.

"The emphasis on public transit, particularly the LRT expansion, is extremely important to better deal with the environment," he says. "I think along with that is the focus

on the attempt to get away from the sprawl. Also, on waste management, garbage, and water quality we've done really well. There is more to be done, but we can proudly say that we've moved pretty well in those aspects of dealing with sustainability and the environment."

"We have a very vibrant, home-grown cultural and community life. We've created that ourselves and we never expected it to come from other places; we do it ourselves. I think that it is something that represents Edmontonians. If we want something, then we are going to do it, and we will do it right here."

Best Bike Store

- (1) **United Cycle** 10323 78 Ave
- (2) **Redbike** 10918 88 Ave
- (3) **Western Cycle** 10429 124 St

Best Hairstylist/Salon (Women)

- (1) **Swizzlesticks** 11104 82 Ave
- (2) **Eveline Charles** Several locations
- (3) **Chrome** 11320 104 Ave

Best Hairstylist/Salon (Men)

- (1) **Swizzlesticks** 11104 82 Ave
- (2) **Board Room**
Main floor, Commerce Place (10150 Jasper Ave)
- (3) **Chrome** 11320 104 Ave

Best Place To Buy Jeans

- (1) **The Bamboo Ballroom** 8206 104 St
- (2) **Colour Blind** 10544 82 Ave
- (3) **High Grade** 8770 170 St

Best Outdoor Store

- (1) **Mountain Equipment Co-op**
12328 102 Ave
- (2) **Campers Village** Several locations
- (3) **Totem** Several locations

Best Furniture Store

- (1) **IKEA** 1311 102 St
- (2) **Urban Barn** Several locations
- (3) **Ethan Allen** 17010 90 Ave

Best Ski/Snowboard Store

- (1) **Plush** 10552 82 Ave
- (2) **Easy Rider** 4211 106 St
- (3) **FS** Several locations

Best Skateboard Store

- (1) **West 49** Several locations
- (2) **FS** Several locations
- (3) **Local 124** 10710 124 St

Best Tattoo Parlour

- (1) **Bear's Skin Art** 10522 124 St
- (2) **Atomic Zombie** 10121 124 St
- (3) **Strange City** 10522 82 Ave

Best Piercing Studio

- (1) **Strange City** 10522 82 Ave
- (2) **Ritualistics** 10544 Jasper Ave
- (3) **Dragon FX** Several locations

Best Music Instrument Store

- (1) **Gordon Price** 10826 82 Ave
- (2) **Long & McQuade** 10204 107 Ave
- (3) **Mother's Music** 10251 109 St

Best Camera Store

- (1) **McBain** Several locations
- (2) **Don's Photo** Several locations
- (3) **Vistek** 10569 109 St

Best Place For Yoga Gear

- (1) **Lululemon** Several locations
- (2) **Yoga Loft** 10309 82 Ave
- (3) **True Ashtanga Yoga** 102 St & 81 Ave

Best Consignment Store

- (1) **Divine/Decadence**
10441 88 Ave/10760 82 Ave
- (2) **Robes & Relics** 8210 104 St
- (3) **Vespucci** 12529 102 Ave

Best Tailor

- (1) **Whyte Ave Tailors** 10820 82 Ave
- (2) **Europa Tailors** #2400, 8882 170 St
- (3) **Capital Tailors** 8602 99 St

Best Shoe Repair

- (1) **Adam's** 10111 108 St
- (2) **Moneysworth & Best Shoe Repair** 9010 85 St
- (3) **Riverbend Shoe Renew**
604 Riverbend Sq

Best Comics Store

- (1) **Warp 1** 9917 82 Ave
- (2) **Happy Harbour** 10112 124 St
- (3) **Wizard's** Several locations

Best Florist

- (1) **Funky Petals** Several locations
- (2) **Eden Lilly** 10416 82 Ave
- (3) **Laurels** 10404 82 Ave

Best Cannabis/Hemp Store

- (1) **Two Guys With Pipes**
Several locations
- (2) **Shell Shock** Several locations
- (3) **Jupiter** 10408 82 Ave

Best Kitchen Store

- (1) **IKEA** 1311 102 St
- (2) **Le Gnome** #1814, 8882 170 St
- (3) **Call the Kettle Black**
Several locations

Best Jewellery Store

- (1) **Plaid Giraffe** 10340 82 Ave
- (2) **Artifacts** 8222 103 St
- (3) **Groove Stone** Southgate Centre

Best Lingerie Store

- (1) **Night Owl** 10180 101 St
- (2) **Dawn's Bra-tique**
10507 Kingsway Ave
- (3) **Nightshade Corsets**
Several locations

Best Fetishwear Store

- (1) **Nightshade Corsets**
Several locations
- (2) **B&D Emporium** 11745 Jasper Ave
- (3) **Millennium** #1630, 8882 170 St

Best Sex Supplies Store

- (1) **Love Boutique** Several locations
- (2) **Hush** 9876 63 Ave
- (3) **Source Adult** Several locations

Best Adult Video Store

- (1) **Adult Superstore** Several locations
- (2) **Hush** 9876 63 Ave
- (3) **Pussycats** 9003 118 Ave

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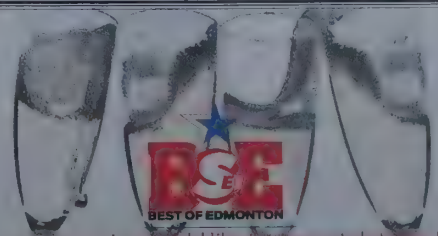
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Best Home Decor Store



Best Kitchen Store



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T6N 1M3 (780) 433-6000



LIVE MUSIC**THURSDAY****Live Music**

ELISE ROLLER HULBERT'S, 7601-115 ST. Doors at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$10 in the door

NO USE FOR A NAME STARLITE ROOM, 10030-102 ST. With Only Crime and Poor Habit. Doors at 5 p.m. Tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca

RANDOM FALTER URBAN LOUNGE, 10544 WHYTE AVE. With The Shakedown and guests. Doors at 7 p.m. **SINGING THEIR SONGS BLUE CHAIR CAFE**, 9624-76 AVE. With Rob Heath, Chloe Albert and Martin Pawlina. Doors at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$15

TIME FOR THREE WINSPEAR CENTRE, 9720-102 AVE. With the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. Doors at 8 p.m. Info: www.winspearcentre.com

TWILIGHT HOTEL HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB, 15120A STONY PLAIN RD. Doors at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$12

DJs/Club Nights**HIGHER LEVEL THURSDAYS**

LEVEL-2 LOUNGE, 11607 ASPER AVE.

MIA FELLOW BUDDY'S PUB, 11725B JASPER AVE.

PUNK RAWK BINGO NEW CITY, 10081 JASPER AVE. Doors at 9 p.m.

SURELY TEMPLE THURSDAYS TEMPLE, 10030-102 ST. Doors at 9 p.m.

URBAN SUBSTANCE THURSDAYS GINGUR SKY LOUNGE, 5505-118 AVE.

FRIDAY**Live Music**

ALLAN-LEE ROPCHAN AND THE BLUES BUSTERS

XWIGGOS, 9302-50 ST. Doors at 8 p.m.

THE BLAME-ITS NEW CITY, 10081 JASPER AVE. With Old Wives, Mad Cowboys and The Fucking Lottery. Doors at 8 p.m.

BOB JAHRING BLUE CHAIR CAFE, 9624-76 AVE. Doors at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10

BRIAN TOOGOOD AND ROB MALOWEY CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEEHOUSE, 9351-118 AVE. Doors at 7:30 p.m.

JAY CLAYTON YARBIRD SUITE, #11, TOMMY BANKS WAY. Doors at 8 p.m. Tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca

JET LAG FRESH START BAKERY & BISTRO, 484 RIVERBEND SQUARE. Doors at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15 in the door

LOUI GRAMM CENTURY CASINO, 13103 FORT RD. Doors at 7 p.m.

MAKESHIFT INNOCENCE HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB, 15120A STONY PLAIN RD. With The Dunes. Doors at 8 p.m.

MARY MACHUCA FORT EDMONTON PARK, FOX AND WHITEMUD DR. CD release party. Doors at 8:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10, available at www.marymachuca.com

MARY CAROLINE HULBERT'S, 7601-115 ST. Doors at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$10 at door

MISTER LUCKY PARKLAND PUB & GRILL, #30, 53222 RANGE ROAD 272, SPRUCE GROVE. Doors at 9:30 p.m.

MORGEN AVENUE THEATRE, 90300-118 AVE. With Benefit of a Doubt. Doors at 9 p.m. Info: www.morglen.com

RANDALL MACDONALD/JEFFREY'S CAFE & WINE BAR, 9640-142 ST. Doors at 9 p.m. Tickets: \$10

RELIENT K REKALL PLACE, 7424-118 AVE. Doors at 8 p.m.

SUNSET TRIP TRIP NIGHTCLUB & SPORTS LOUNGE, 9021-34 AVE. With the Yells. Tickets: \$5. Info: www.ignightclub.ca

VOCAL GEMS CONCERT CONVOCAATION HALL, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, 113 ST. & 91 AVE. Doors at 7:30 p.m. Info: www.operanova.ca

DJs/Club Nights

CONNECTED FRIDAYS BANK ULTRA LOUNGE, 10765 JASPER AVE. Local house and international guest DJs

DANCEHALL REGGAE NIGHT 180 DEGREES, 10730-107 AVE. With Generation LIVEXX. Doors at 10 p.m.

DI DONOVAN NEWCASTLE PUB AND GRILL, 6108-90 AVE. **DI EDDY TONFLASH BUDDY'S PUB**, 11725B JASPER AVE.

DI SEXXXY BUDDY'S BAR, 10742-106 ST. **DI SHAWNIBIS ON THE ROCKS**, 11740 JASPER AVE.

FORMULA FRIDAYS LEVEL-2 LOUNGE, 11607 ASPER AVE.

LETS WOK TA HOUSIE STARLITE ROOM, 10030-102 ST. With Soul'd Out. Doors at 10 p.m.

MOD CLUB HALO LOUNGE, 10538 JASPER AVE.

BLUSH CONNECTION URBAN LOUNGE, 10544 WHYTE AVE. Eleventh Current and My Sister Ocean. Doors at 7 p.m.

COLOURS OF SPRING MCDONALD UNITED CHURCH, 10025-101 ST. Presented by Kokopelli Choir Association. Doors at 7 p.m. Tickets: www.tsoonthesquare.ca

DA CAMERA SINGERS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 10031-109 ST. Doors at 8 p.m. Tickets: www.tsoonthesquare.ca

DANNY MICHEL HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB, 15120A STONY PLAIN RD. Doors at 8 p.m.

FAMILY FORCE 5 REKALL PLACE, 7424-118 AVE. With Pillar and Thousand Foot Krutch.

FESTIVAL CITY WINDS MUSIC SOCIETY CONVOCAATION HALL, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, 113 ST. & 91 AVE. Spring concert. Doors at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: www.tsoonthesquare.com

GUNTHER BRUX BAR & GRILL, 10030-102 ST. With Viking Fell and guests. Doors at 9 p.m. Tickets: \$10 in the door

HIP-HOP IN THE PARK LOUISE MCKINNEY PARK, 9529 GRIERSON HILL. Doors at 11 p.m. Info: www.hiphopintheapark.ca

A JOYFUL NOISE ALL SAINTS CATHEDRAL, 10035-103 ST. Doors at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: info@ajoyfulnoise.ca

LUCAS CHAISSON HULBERT'S, 7601-115 ST. With Lyra Brown, Stephanie Bosch and Daniel Moir. Doors at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$10 at door

MISTER LUCKY HILL TOP PUB, 8220-106 AVE. Doors at 9 p.m.

ROLAND MAJEAU/JEFFREY'S CAFE & WINE BAR, 9640-142 ST. Tickets: \$15

SIMON FISX TRIO YARBIRD SUITE, #11, TOMMY BANKS WAY. Doors at 8 p.m. Tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca

STRIKER STARLITE ROOM, 10030-102 ST. With Keep II and Inhuman Form. Doors at 9 p.m. Tickets: \$10 in the door

TAKING MEDICATION JET NIGHTCLUB & SPORTS LOUNGE, 9221-34 AVE. With Making a Monster and guests. Tickets: \$5

THRASHTIC FIBROSIS THE ARTERY, 9535 JASPER AVE. With Let's Dance and Bat'leth. Doors at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$10

WEST OF WINNIPEG CROWN AND ANCHOR, 15277 CASTLE DOWNS RD. Doors at 8 p.m.

DJs/Club Nights

DANCEHALL REGGAE NIGHT 180 DEGREES, 10730-107 AVE. With Generation LIVEXX. Doors at 10 p.m.

DI HOT PHILLY RED STAR, 10538 JASPER AVE. **DI SHERRI NI WASTE PUB AND GRILL**, 6108-90 AVE.

DI SEXXXY BUDDY'S BAR, 10742-106 ST. **DI SHERRI NI WASTE PUB AND GRILL**, 6108-90 AVE.

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WEDNESDAY**Live Music**

DON BERNER TRIO (OPPER POT), #101, 9707-110 ST. Doors at 8 p.m.

DUFF ROBINSON DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB, 9013-86 AVE. **SONG SOIRÉES CONVOCAATION HALL**, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, 113 ST. & 91 AVE. English art songs presented by Juana Nuova. Doors at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$12. Info: www.tsoonthesquare.ca

TV ON THE RADIO EDMONTON EVENT CENTRE, 8882-170 ST. With Mitty Projectors. Doors at 8 p.m. Tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca

WOOL ON WOLVES BRUX BAR & GRILL, 10030-102 ST. With The Lupton and Call Deton. Doors at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$8 at door

BEATS/Club Nights

DEAT PARTY WEDNESDAYS STOLL'S, #201, 10368 WHYTE AVE.

GUEST DJ RED STAR, 10538 JASPER AVE.

RETROACTIVE RADIO BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE, 10425 WHYTE AVE.

WILD STYLE WEDNESDAYS BRUX BAR & GRILL, 10030-102 ST.

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DUSTER'S PUB, 6402-118 AVE. Doors at 9 p.m.

LB'S PUB, #110, 23 AKINS DR. ST. ALBERT. Doors at 9 p.m.

FRIDAY

COAST TO COAST PUB AND GRILL, 552 CALGARY TR. Doors at 9 p.m.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION (NORWOOD BRANCH), 11550-82 ST. Doors at 7 p.m.

BLUES ON WHYTE, 10379 WHYTE AVE. Doors at 4 p.m.

CARROT ARTS COFFEE HOUSE, 9351-118 AVE. Doors at 7 p.m.

COAST TO COAST PUB AND GRILL, 552 CALGARY TR. Doors at 9 p.m.

CROWN PUB, 10709-109 ST. Doors at 2 p.m.

LB'S PUB, #110, 23 AKINS DR. ST. ALBERT. Doors at 4:30 p.m.

MORANGON'S TEK CAFE, 10118-75 ST. Doors at 7 p.m.

ORLANDO'S PUB & GRILL, 15504-127 ST. Doors at 3 p.m

MOVIE REVIEW • CANCON • BY LUKE DE SMET (75) words

Has Atom Egoyan Re-Earned Our Adoration?

THE CANADIAN AUTEUR'S LATEST IS NOT ONE OF HIS BEST, BUT IT'S A COMPLEX TALE OF TERRORISM IN THE DIGITAL AGE

ADORATION

Directed by Atom Egoyan. Starring Devon Bostick, Arsinée Khanjian, Scott Speedman. Opens Fri., May 22.

★★★☆☆

There was a time during the '90s when Atom Egoyan's name was synonymous with Canadian film – he was our foremost auteur and the closest thing to a bankable brand name our industry had. However, in the years since – during which David Cronenberg released a string of high-profile masterpieces and Guy Maddin has established himself as the toast of the indie circuit with his anachronistic sideshows – Egoyan has been relatively quiet, his relatively sparse output earning a modest critical and popular reception at best.

Yet there remains a certain prestige to any Egoyan release, as an industry bereft of stars yearns to see its favoured son return to form. He is Atom Egoyan, after all, and thus will perhaps always be dogged by unfair expectations and the inevitable disappointment that follows. It's not enough for me to tell you that *Adoration* is a decent film, of course, unless I first qualify that it's no *The Sweet Hereafter*. And of course it isn't, but it is a fine example of what many auteurs create when they struggle to regain past glory: a fascinating mess.

Adoration is the story of intelligent but troubled high school student Simon (Devon Bostick), who presents to his class the account of his Middle Eastern father's plot to detonate a

bomb inside a plane bound for Tel Aviv, using his own pregnant wife as an unwitting martyr. Simon explains that he was that unborn child, and thus he must come to terms with a terrorist father willing to sacrifice his own family. The story, however, is a fabrication, presented as truth upon the inappropriate advice of Simon's teacher (Arsinée Khanjian), who seemingly suffers from some rather serious boundary issues, and involves herself in the lives of Simon and his adoptive uncle (Scott Speedman).

Egoyan has, first of all, lost none of his talent for crafting attractive films. In an era when shaky-cams and hand-held shots are so in vogue, Egoyan's steady, meticulous camera is almost jarring at first – the opening pan is relatively brief, yet feels nearly glacial. It's a welcome change of pace, and we settle quickly into superbly framed shots and fluid movement.

Egoyan also maintains his prowess when it comes to unravelling webs of twisted and disturbing family relationships, and not surprisingly this is where *Adoration* fires on all cylinders. As the family plot takes over the second half of the film, Egoyan deftly tells his tale of a family ravaged by tragedy, prejudice and dishonesty through a series of unreliable narrators. Egoyan knows enough about families not to offer any big resolutions, and lets the relationships unfold without imposing a grand meaning upon it all.

Yet amidst this family drama, ideas and themes that could be central to another film whiz by at a breakneck pace. *Adoration* cycles through being a film about many seemingly dissonant themes: terrorism, art, technology, and racism, to name a few. Yet



What Comes After *The Sweet Hereafter*? (Devon Bostick and Scott Speedman play a high-school student and his adoptive father in Atom Egoyan's *Adoration*. PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES CLASSICS)

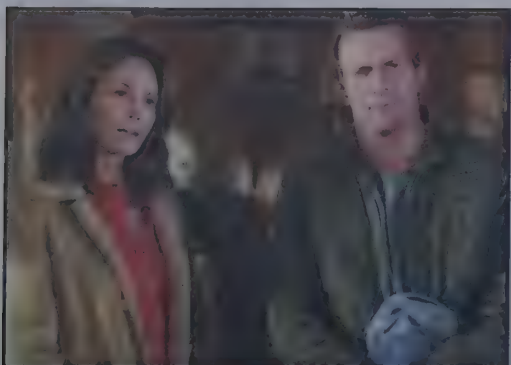
more often than not, these ideas are left undeveloped, leaving the film incoherent and messy. Perhaps a victim of lofty expectations, the film suffers from its own ambition, much like Egoyan's earlier *Ararat*.

The technology angle, however, almost pulls it all together, as Simon records digital videos of his dying grandfather's racist speeches, and broadcasts his own lies in video classrooms filled with students, academics, and political extremists ready to debate the issue and explode it into something far more than what it is. Here *Adoration*'s scattered nature

seems appropriate, as Simon's online world is one in which nothing stands between half-cooked, terrible ideas and mass distribution. No longer can experiments such as Simon's remain private – he, like everyone else, is provided an immediate and far-reaching pulpit, a reality whose ramifications, Egoyan seems to suggest we have not fully considered.

It is perhaps not a criticism, then, to say that much of what goes on in *Adoration* is senseless. The same inexplicable drama that plagues families is extended to the social and po-

litical. This is a world in which action is often independent of both motivation and consequence, and in that *Adoration* is a success, one that has the makings of a film that may grow in esteem over time, Egoyan certainly has no problem with leaving viewers to piece together dissonant themes on their own; it's just questionable whether the material is immediately gripping enough to inspire them to do so. *Adoration* could very easily be dismissed as a minor work by a former master, but that would be unfortunate, as there's a lot here to digest.



You Do Not Want Mickey Rourke Determined To Kill You (Diane Lane and Thomas Jane are an ordinary couple who enter the Witness Protection Program when they testify against a paid killer in *Killshot*. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY)

DVD DICTATOR • THE MOVIES YOU MUST BUY THIS TUESDAY

GUNPLAY!

Killshot

CAST | Diane Lane, Thomas Jane, Joseph Gordon Levitt, Mickey Rourke, Rosario Dawson

What happened here? A film version of one of Elmore Leonard's best novels, presented by Quentin Tarantino, directed by *Shakespeare in Love*'s John Madden, written by the guy who previously adapted *The Wings of the Dove* and *Jude the Obscure* for the screen, and featuring, if not quite an A-list cast, then at least a strong mix of respected acting vets and cool up-and-comers. And yet it never got theatrically released, and only surfaced on DVD three years later. Suspicious, but *The Dictator* remains cautiously intrigued.

GROUCHINESS!

Dreams With Sharp Teeth

FEATURING | Harlan Ellison

There was a time in *The Dictator*'s youth when his favourite author, bar none, was Harlan Ellison, the irascible creator of such sci-fi classics as "A Boy and His Dog," "I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream," the "City on the Edge of Forever" episode of *Star Trek*, as well as an episode of *The Outer Limits* that bore such a strong resemblance to *The Terminator* that Ellison successfully sued James Cameron into adding his name into the opening credits. This documentary by Erik Nelson is a solid guide to the man, his influential work, and his many, many lawsuits.

GYRATIONS!

Powder Blue

CAST | Jessica Biel, Eddie Redmayne, Forest Whitaker, Lisa Kudrow, Ray Liotta

This *Crash*-style drama follows a mortician, an ex-con, a suicidal ex-priest, and a stripper, whose lives all cross on Christmas Eve in L.A. It's a moving tale of love, pain, and redemption that... Oh, who are we kidding? It's the movie where Jessica Biel plays a stripper and does a bunch of nude scenes that have already been avidly circulated throughout the Internet. Fast-forward through the rest of the film, put on *Mega Shark vs. Giant Octopus* (also new to DVD this week), and you'll have the perfect lowbrow "guys' movie night."

MOVIE REVIEW • TRAVELOGUE • BY PAUL MATWYCHUK (1,626 words)

Liverpool, I Love You (But You're Bringing Me Down)



Grime And Punishment | Terence Davies' *Of Time and the City* evokes Liverpool in all its grey industrial splendour. PHOTO © BERNARD FALLON

NOT EVEN THE BEATLES EMERGE UNSCATHED FROM TERENCE DAVIES' GRUMPY, POETIC OF TIME AND THE CITY

OF TIME AND THE CITY

Directed and narrated by Terence Davies. Metro Cinema (Zedler Hall, The Citadel). Fri-Mon, May 22-25.

★★★★☆

The first image we see in *Of Time and the City* is the giant screen in a vintage movie palace, the curtains closed, the footlights bathing them in a pregnant red glow. The first sound we hear is director Terence Davies reciting A.E. Housman's famous lines from *A Shropshire Lad* – the ones about “those blue remembered hills ... those happy highways where I went, and cannot come again.” And then, as the melancholy strains of Liszt's “Consolation No. 3” play on the soundtrack, the curtains part, and footage of Davies' home town of Liverpool takes over the screen. You can travel those highways again, it seems, if you can call watching scratchy black-and-white newsreels travelling – and if you can call those grimy Liverpool streets “happy.” Later in the film, Davies mentions British building designers' singular talent for the dismal; by that criterion, Liverpool is the architecture capital of the United Kingdom.

Of Time and the City was one of several projects commissioned by the City of Liverpool after it was named the first European Cultural Capital in 1998. But as anyone who's seen his films *Distant Voices*, *Still Lives* and *The Long Day Closes* will know, if you want someone to write a love letter to Liverpool, Davies is not the man you want to hire. (He doesn't even like The Beatles, for God's sake – he dismisses their music as so

much mindless “yeah yeah yeah.”)

No, Davies' chief memories of Liverpool are of the cheerless childhood he spent in grim row houses – although, as a homosexual living in a working-class Catholic neighbourhood, his adolescence wasn't much happier. Occasionally the monotony would be relieved by trips to the beach (the meagre pleasures of which Davies describes here in witheringly precise detail), but his only real sources of joy were the poetry of Keats and Shelley (which his narration quotes at length), the music of Mahler and Bruckner, and the glorious Hollywood movies that he devoured at the local cinema.

But if Davies has little patience for Liverpool's institutions – the church, the schools, the monarchy – he does find something to love in the faces of the people who inhabit it. One of the few contemporary pop songs he plays approvingly in the film is “Dirty Old Town” by The Pogues, with its lyrics about dreaming a dream by the old canal, kissing a girl by the factory wall, and smelling the spring on the smoky wind – in other words, glimpsing beauty even in the grimmest location. *Of Time and the City*'s most moving sections are Davies' montages of children playing in the street or young people dressed up on Saturday night to hit the bars – he sets these sequences to some of Mahler and Sibelius' most soaring melodies, in a way that ennobles his subjects instead of diminishing them.

The film *Of Time and the City* most resembles is Guy Maddin's *My Winnipeg*, another deeply personal film about a director's relationship to the somewhat shabby town where he grew up. (Both films even open with rhyming shots of train travel.)

Maddin's film is more fanciful, more forgiving of his city's faults, and ultimately more likable, Davies' grouchy wit has much to recommend it too – I especially savoured his line about how The Beatles made the previous generation of pop songs sound “as antiquated as antimacassars or curling tongs.”

What a missed opportunity that Edmonton didn't try commissioning a similar project during our stint as Canada's official cultural capital! I doubt any director could have gotten away with producing something as acerbic and iconoclastic as *Of Time and the City*, but I would've liked to have seen someone like Trevor Anderson make the attempt. Care to try anyway, Trevor?

CANNES FILM FESTIVAL
WINNER

“A profound and provocative exploration... Egoian's finest since 'The Sweet Hereafter.'”

Stephen Holden, *The New York Times*

“Moody, provocative and intellectually ambitious, 'Adoration' is primed to elicit impassioned discussion among audiences... Egoian is a masterful director.”

Claudia Puig, *USA TODAY*

“Egoian remains an auteur at the highest level of cinematic creation.”

Andrew Sarris, *THE NEW YORK OBSERVER*

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The Vatican Vs. The Large Hadron Collider

IF ANTIMATTER DOESN'T DESTROY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, THE ILLUMINATI WILL IN *ANGELS & DEMONS*

ANGELS & DEMONS

Directed by Ron Howard. Starring Tom Hanks, Ayellet Zurer, Ewan McGregor, Stellan Skarsgård. Now playing.

★★★☆☆

Angels & Demons contains my favourite onscreen caption of the year "The Necropolis 11:15 p.m." It also contains my favourite location switch since, like, forever, when director Ron Howard whisks us from The Vatican, where the College of Cardinals is meeting to select a new pope, to – of all places! – the Large Hadron Collider, where scientists are about to whip up a cylindrical

tube full of precious antimatter. But the scientists' joy will be short-lived, because just minutes later, a thief breaks into the lab and steals the antimatter cylinder. Before we have time to even catch our breath, we're off to Harvard University, where symbolology professor Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks) is doing laps in the pool.

How these three events will link up – and how they all relate to Raphael, Bernini, Galileo, the Illuminati, an orphaned Irish priest (Ewan McGregor), the oxygen-free rooms of the Vatican archives, a leggy "integumental physicist" (Israeli actress Ayellet Zurer), four kidnapped priests, five branding irons, several dozen cardinals, an exploding helicopter, an exploding car, a plot to murder the pope, a severed eyeball,

and a whole lot of conveniently placed surveillance cameras – is the substance of *Angels & Demons*, which sounds a whole lot more exciting (and appealingly nutty) than it actually is.

In fact, the film really only sparks to life near the insane penultimate sequence, when Ewan McGregor's character takes a more central role in the action – I don't want to give anything away, but *Angels & Demons* contains the most memorable Catholic skydiving sequence since those nuns jumped out of the airplane without wearing parachutes in Harmony Korine's *Mister Lonely*.

For most of the rest of its running time, I'm sad to say, *Angels & Demons* takes itself way too seriously – Ron Howard, who also directed *The Da Vinci Code*, really seems to think Dan Brown's pulpy thrillers deserve the classy prestige-picture treatment, and he doesn't permit himself or Tom Hanks even a momentary wink to the camera. Give me Nicolas Cage's *National Treasure* movies any time – they may be a shameless ripoff of the Dan Brown formula, but at least they have a healthy willingness to own up to their own ridiculousness. It's a whole lot more fun watching Helen Mirren jauntily slum her way through *National Treasure: Book of Secrets* than it is to see Armin



Where's The Swiss Guard When You Really Need Them? | Tom Hanks and Ayellet Zurer watch another cardinal bite the dust in *Angels & Demons*. PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES

Mueller-Stahl and Stellan Skarsgård grimly trotting out their stock performances in yet another big-budget international thriller. (Although it's pretty amusing to hear Skarsgård greet Hanks by grumbling, "Oh good ... the symbolologist is here.")

The underlying premise of Dan Brown's books – there's evidence of a massive, ancient conspiracy in our very midst, which you can detect if you only know how to decode the symbols – isn't hard to understand. But when his stories are transferred to film, their ticking-timebomb scenarios are weighed down by pages of expository dialogue about ambiguities and Vatican history that not even a screen performer as natural as Tom Hanks can make dramatic.

The movie *Angels & Demons* reminds me of most is, weirdly, the 1989 flop *The January Man*, which pitted Kevin Kline against a serial killer who was using some kind of code based on prime numbers and musical notation to determine where and when he'd strike next. I'm not sure why that was supposed to be dramatically interesting, any more than why I'm supposed to get excited by all those statues pointing toward the next clue in *Angels & Demons*.

Or were they pointing at the screening room next door? That's where *Star Trek* was playing – and don't think I wasn't tempted to play symbolologist and follow the clues to a livelier movie.

ONLINE MOVIES • **MADE IN POLAND** | 441 words

Sleeping Sickness



**FREEDOM OF CHOICE: G.H. LEWMER
A MAN VISITS HIS BELOVED'S
BEDROOM (BUT ONLY WHEN
SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS) IN
FOUR NIGHTS WITH ANNA**

With the 2009 Cannes Film Festival in full force, it seemed appropriate to visit a master's triumphant return to glory at the 2008 festival – one that, tragically, failed to find distribution here in North America.

Polish filmmaker Jerzy Skolimowski has always remained an outsider in international film circles. Starting with a series of startling, provocative films in Poland in the 1960s, Skolimowski settled in England in the 1970s, where he made arguably his three most famous works (*Deep End*, *The Shout*, and *Moonlighting*).

From the 1980s onward, however, Skolimowski drifted into cinematic limbo with a series of international co-productions (*The Lightship*, *Tor-*

rents of Spring) that failed to find favour with audiences or critics. It wasn't until his recent re-emergence as an actor in David Cronenberg's *Eastern Promises* that Skolimowski registered on cinephiles' radar. Skolimowski, of course, couldn't care less. He was happily living in California, painting and making the films he wanted to make – and making them on his own terms and his own time.

Which brings us to 2008's *Four Nights With Anna*. The film's genesis was a report Skolimowski read in a newspaper: "A man climbed into the bedroom of a woman he loved, just to watch her sleep." This being a

as we flashback and flash-forward to Okrasa's current and previous life as he now serenadously spies (and longs for) the same nurse he failed to help years earlier.

Okrasa is a constant onscreen as he breaks into the nurse's room at night, tidying up her quarters, feeding her cat, painting her toenails. As the film unfolds, a creepy character study of a forgotten soul evolves into a deeper, more far-reaching meditation on love, loss, and the brutality of the relationship between the individual and the state.

The acting and directing are masterful. Steranko gives a heart-rending performance as a man who is destroyed at every turn by every means possible. Skolimowski's refined but restless camerawork brings out the full, overwhelming poignancy and despair of the story. I strongly doubt a better-directed film was released in 2008.

Four Nights With Anna is a mysterious work that probes the depths of suffering to find the humanity that totalitarianism suffocates on an ongoing basis. It is a film that will be remembered 100 years from now. It's so sad that it is now virtually forgotten one year later.

**WATCH FOUR NIGHTS WITH ANNA ONLINE AT VIDEO.
GOOGLE.CA.**

Skolimowski film, however, this scenario isn't as simple as it appears.

Arthur Steranko stars as Leon Okrasa, an ex-con who works at a hospital crematorium in the Polish countryside while tending to his ill mother in his off hours. Years earlier, Okrasa was wrongfully convicted of the rape of a nurse, a crime he witnessed on the hospital grounds. The film is told in an elliptical manner,

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MOVIE REVIEW • **MASHUMENTARY** • BY MICHAEL HINGSTON | 620 WORDS

Copyright Here, Copyright Now

RIP: A REMIX MANIFESTO MAKES A FLASHY (BUT NOT TERRIBLY NUANCED) CASE FOR DECRIMINALIZING MASHUPS

RIP: A REMIX MANIFESTO

Written and directed by Brett Gaylor. Metro Cinema (Zédel Hall, The Citadel). Fri-Mon, May 22-25.

★★★☆☆

The best scene in Brett Gaylor's new documentary *Rip: A Remix Manifesto* is a simple shot of two people lying on a bed. A man in his mid-20s works on a laptop, clicking away at a music editing program, mumbling to the camera about what he's doing as he does it. Just behind him, a girl is drowsily sprawled out, nearly asleep.

Four things make this scene so engaging. First, the man is Gregg Gillis, better known as the mashup artist Girl Talk, whose extensive use of uncleared samples — often more than 20 in a three-minute period — has made him a poster boy in the recent but far-reaching fight over copyright reform in North America.

Second is what Gillis is actually doing on the computer. He isolates a one-second clip from Elvis Costello's "Radio, Radio" and, in the blink of an eye, cuts it up, loops it, slows part of it down and speeds part of it way up, and comes up with a thudding club beat that's completely unrecognizable from the original sample. It's an astonishing display of technical and creative dexterity.

Third is the implicit cost: for Gillis to legitimately clear the rights for even that minuscule clip, it would run him, between Costello's record label and the song's publishers, approximately \$12,500.

Fourth, and most importantly, is that Gaylor is himself showing this footage to Marybeth Peters, a register of copyrights at the U.S. government with a 40-year tenure. Peters is a nice enough woman, but admits right away that she doesn't use a computer at home and has never in her life downloaded a song, legally or otherwise — yet she is one of the people who gets to decide whether artists on the cutting edge of technology, like Gillis, are criminals.

"Can I show you a mashup?" Gaylor asks, pulling out his laptop. After a minute of watching Gillis at work, Peters marvels, "Oh my God."

Gaylor looks at her. "This is a lot of copyright infringement?"

"No," she says. "I'm just amazed at what he's doing!"

Indeed, it's hard not to get sucked up into the B.C.-born Gaylor's enthusiasm as he barrels along, using flashy animations and milking the fair use clause for all it's worth to show how culture has always borrowed from its past and reimagined it in a modern context — The Rolling Stones and Walt Disney being among the most successful examples. He also lands interviews with some of the smartest copyright reform activists around, including Stanford law professor Lawrence Lessig and novelist/blogger Cory Doctorow.

But Gaylor's enthusiasm works against him too. *Rip* frequently gets too caught up in its own flashiness, and its stance is about three steps too far back from its subject to make the kind of nuanced case necessary to preach to anyone but the choir. As soon as Gaylor started trying to justify Napster (yes, everyone used it and yes, it was awesome, but its us-

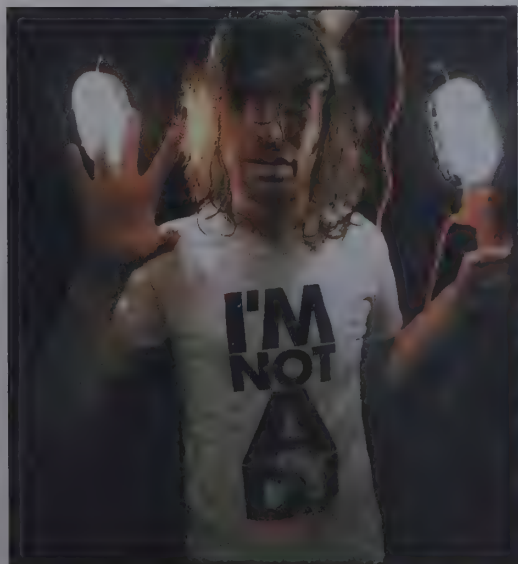
ers were not remixers — they were thieves), I tuned out completely.

I'd also be remiss in my duties were I to let Gaylor get away with never once mentioning how copyright functions in this country, particularly since *Rip* is funded by the National Film Board of Canada — and because

we've been on the brink of new digital legislation for over a year now. (In fact, we don't even have the fair use clause here, but Gaylor doesn't seem to notice in his frequent mentions of it.) It's very likely that our bill will closely mirror the U.S.'s suffocating Digital Millennium Copyright

Act, but it's not a foregone conclusion.

So instead of bemoaning how Girl Talk's mashup art is illegal down south, Gaylor's energies could have been put to much better use had he tried to prevent the same thing from happening here.



What You Talkin' Bout, Gillis? | Gregg Gillis (a.k.a. mashup artist Girl Talk) shows off his prodigious laptop skills in *Rip: A Remix Manifesto*. PHOTO BY ANDREW STRASSER

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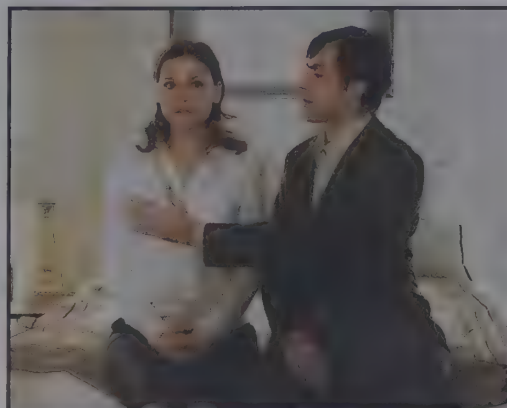
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MOVIE REVIEW • COMÉDIE ROMANTIQUE • BY LUKE DE SMET 1516 words

Lips, Unsynced



We've Been Wanting To Do This Ever Since We Saw *The Beach* | Virginie Ledoyen gets manhandled by writer/director/star Emmanuel Mouret in the romantic comedy *Shall We Kiss?* PHOTO COURTESY OF MUSIC BOX FILMS

**A SIMPLE SMOOCH BRINGS
UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES
IN THE AIRY FRENCH CHARMER
SHALL WE KISS?**

SHALL WE KISS?

Directed by Emmanuel Mouret. Starring Emmanuel Mouret, Virginie Ledoyen, Julie Gayet and Michaël Cohen. Opens Fri, May 22.

★★★☆☆

Romantic comedies constitute a much broader genre than they're given credit for, yet in an attempt to shoehorn them into the "date movie" demographic, studios often forget their many possibilities. The French film *Shall We Kiss?* is hardly a great (or even notable) example of its genre, but it does pick up on one of those neglected possibilities: with nary an overwrought, tearjerking moment, it's the sort of talkative, airy charmer that is difficult to find in Hollywood these days. Even the break-ups in this film are conducted in such a way that we expect their participants to proceed directly to a friend's house for a glass of wine and some good conversation.

The main action plays out as a story being told by Julie Gayet to would-be suitor Michaël Cohen. After a chance meeting and romantic evening together, Gayet flirtatiously nibbles on her lower lip even as she explains to Cohen why they cannot share a simple no-strings-attached kiss. Her body language alone makes clear such a kiss could have not-so-unforeseen consequences, but her story is a farcical comedy of errors warning of unintended love.

It picks up with Emmanuel Mouret (who directs as well as plays the film's leading man) confiding in his married best friend Virginie Ledoyen that his life is being crippled by a lack of physical affection. The friends matter-of-factly agree to solve the problem with some simple, one-time-only extramarital sex, and as goes without saying, things do not go

according to plan. The story quickly becomes a mess of humorous situations and dialogue that professes to be an observational fable about love, but really it's just an unpretentious good time.

For a film about the often-irresistible allure of physicality, the requisite sex scenes are played out with comical aloofness. From Mouret's own story-within-a-story of his failed attempt at visiting a prostitute, to Ledoyen's plan for the pair to have sex as poorly as possible (so as to remove the allure), our romantic leads behave at best as awkward teenagers and at worst as inept buffoons. We are simply to take Mouret's and

**REGARDLESS OF HOW
A KISS MAY BE INTENDED,
SOMETIMES THE BODY
HAS ITS OWN IDEAS.**

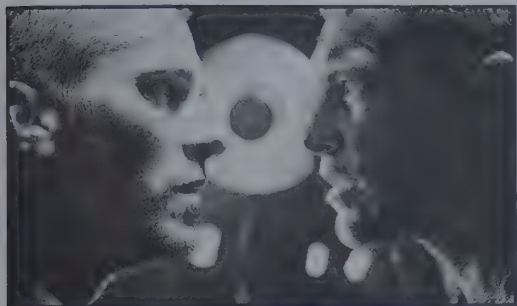
Ledoyen's word for it that they are the best lovers either has ever had — so much so that that Ledoyen is willing to sacrifice an otherwise happy marriage.

But this, of course, is the entire point, as this is just the nature of love. We are to take it as a given that the heart knows no reason, and that regardless of how a kiss may be intended, sometimes the body has its own ideas on the matter.

Mouret clearly hopes his film will have a similar effect on the audience. There's not a lot to *Shall We Kiss?*, and it has patches that are downright forgettable. But like a mere kiss, a simple, brief film like this can wash over us. If you come prepared give yourself over to its charm, wit, and attractive cast, *Shall We Kiss?* certainly makes for an enjoyable, if insubstantial, evening. At the very least, it's a decent substitute for a friendly conversation on a Saturday afternoon. If only it came with wine.



MOVIE GUIDE • WHAT'S PLAYING IN THE THEATRES



Such A Professional! | Does Christian Bale find his Terminator Salvation co-star Sam Worthington fucking distracting? PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS PICTURES

OPENING THIS WEEK

ADORATION

Devin Bostick, Scott Speedman, and Arsi-née Khanjian star in *The Sweet Hereafter* writer/director Atom Egoyan's drama about a high-school student who writes a provocative essay about terrorism for a class assignment, only to have it become a legal and political flashpoint when it appears on the Internet.

DANCE FLICK

Marlon Wayans, Essence Atkins, Damon Wayans Jr., Amy Sedaris, and Keenen Ivory Wayans star in director Damien Wayans' raunchy spoof of urban dance flicks such as *Save the Last Dance*, *Step Up*, and *You Got Served*.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

Joel McCrea, Laraine Day, Herbert Marshall, and George Sanders star in *North by Northwest* director Alfred Hitchcock's breezy 1940 thriller about a young American newspaper reporter whose first European assignment puts him on the trail of a nest of Axis spies. *Royal Alberta Museum: Mon, May 25 (8pm)*

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: BATTLE OF THE SMITHSONIAN

Ben Stiller, Amy Adams, Owen Wilson, Hank Azaria, and Robin Williams star in director Shawn Levy's sequel to his 2006 family hit, in which hapless security guard Larry Daley enlists the aid of Amelia Earhart to prevent an evil pharaoh from magically coming to life at the Smithsonian Institution.

OF TIME AND THE CITY

Distant Voices, Still Lives director Terence Davies narrates this poetic documentary about his hometown of Liverpool, contrasting the city that he knew as a boy in the 1940s and '50s with the place it has become today. *Metro Cinema: May 22-25 (Fri, Sun @ 7pm; Sat, Mon @ 9pm)*

RIP: A REMIX MANIFESTO

Director Brett Gaylor's documentary polemic about copyright issues in the age of the internet and digital filesharing. Featuring interviews with Girl Talk, Lawrence Lessig, and Cory Doctorow. *Metro Cinema: May 22-25 (Fri, Sun @ 9pm; Sat, Mon @ 7pm)*

SHALL WE KISS?

Virginie Ledoyen, Emmanuel Mouret (who also wrote and directed), Julie Gayet, and Michaël Cohen star in this romantic comedy

ughy) in need of reforming. The calories are empty, but they're tasty enough.

★★★★☆

GOMORRAH

This dense, grim, impressively sprawling docudrama about the Naples-based Camorra criminal organization is a terrifyingly convincing portrait of a city where crime is an essential, inescapable fact of life. *The Wire* did it better, but *Gomorra*'s pretty stunning in its own right.

★★★★☆

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS

This amiable animated spoof of '50s sci-fi — complete with a blob, an alien invader, and a 50-foot woman — has an expensive look and an even bigger-budgeted voice cast, but the story and the jokes lack that extra spark of mad-scientist invention that could have pushed it over the top.

★★★☆☆

THE SOLOIST

Jamie Foxx scores a rare Oscar-bait triple play with this performance: he's playing (1) a real-life person (2) with mental illness (3) who's also a musician. But it's Robert Downey Jr.'s work as a jaded reporter that's the movie's heart and soul. More watchable than it looks!

★★★★☆

STAR TREK

This sexy, funny, light-hearted, but never campy origin story is just the shot in the arm that this franchise needed. A crowd-pleaser in the best sense of the term. Keep 'em comin', J.J.!

★★★★☆

X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE

Serviceable, if pointless, origin story of the comic book superhero famed for his fearsome claws and even more fearsome facial hair. The new *Star Trek* flick does this fanboy prequel stuff much, much better.

★★★☆☆

about a woman who explains her reluctance to kiss a man at the end of their first date by telling him an elaborate story about a couple whose lives were ruined by a premature smooch. In French with English subtitles.

TERMINATOR SALVATION

Christian Bale, Sam Worthington, Moon Bloodgood, and Helena Bonham Carter star in *Charlie's Angels* director McG's latest installment in the sci-fi franchise, in which the now-grown human saviour John Connor meets a mysterious man who may hold the key to defeating Skynet and its army of killer robots.

ALSO PLAYING

17 AGAIN

Disney attempts to revive the venerable body-switch comedies of the '80s, this time with Zac Efron playing the rejuvenated hero. He's not bad, but the generic, sitcommy jokes about uncool, out-of-touch adults drag the picture down.

★★★☆☆

GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST

This modernized version of *A Christmas Carol* removes Dickens' story from its Christmas context and turns it into a romantic comedy about a womanizer (Matthew McCon-



Shall We Kiss

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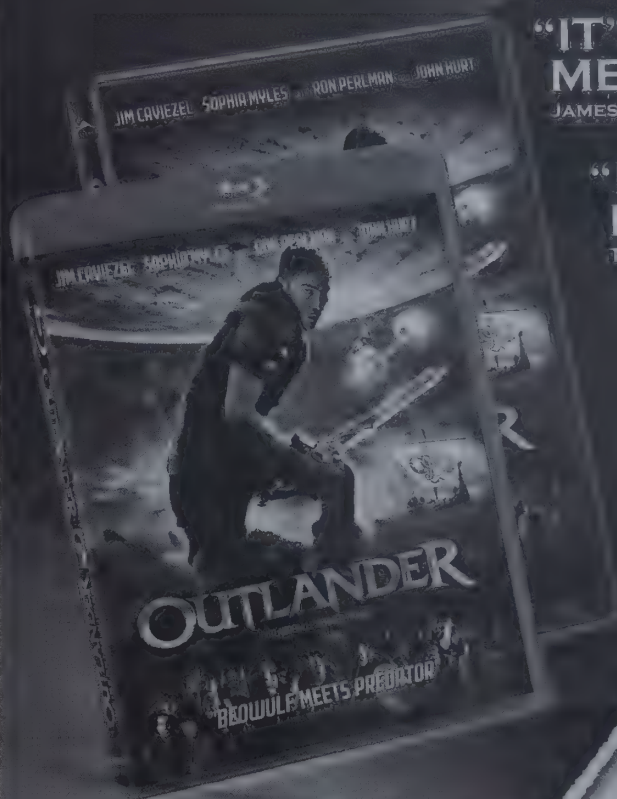
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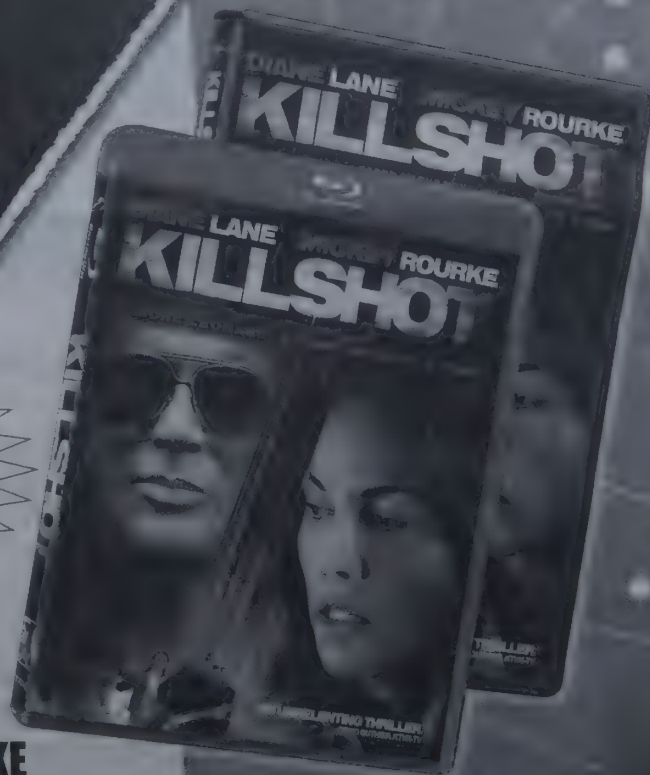
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“ THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL TITLE STORY JUMPS A FEW MILLENNIA INTO THE PAST TO SHINE A LIGHT ON A GROUP OF SLACKER VIKINGS.

BOOK REVIEW • BUZZ AUTHOR • BY MICHAEL HINGSTON | 566 words

Brief Interludes With Hideous Men

WELLS TOWER FILLS THE PAGES OF *EVERYTHING RAVAGED, EVERYTHING BURNED* WITH TALES OF DESTRUCTIVE MALE ENERGY

EVERYTHING RAVAGED, EVERYTHING BURNED
by Wells Tower. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 256 pp. \$30.
★★★★☆

Everything Ravaged, Everything Burned is technically the debut book by Wells Tower, but the American writer is far from new to the literature world. He's a frequent contributor of journalism to high-profile publications like *Harper's* and the *Washington Post*, and these nine stories have all been previously published in various magazines since 2001. So calling Tower's collection a literary breakthrough would be as misleading as, say, the *Guardian* giving Alex Ross, a staff writer for *The New Yorker*, the First Book Award for *The Rest Is Noise* in 2007.

Greenhorn or no, Tower has made quite a splash with *Everything Ravaged* in the scant few weeks it's been in stores. And on one level, it's not hard to see why: these are lean, confident stories written in what Michael Chabon's glowing blurb describes as "authentic American vernacular." Indeed, Tower's subject is overwhelmingly the modern, urban American male, who is frustrated with society's restraints and often milking the pain of past mistakes. His characters make rash, emotional leaps of faith to reconnect with their families and their lost youth — and when that doesn't work, they turn, a little too quickly, to violence.

The problem is that the stories barely ever deviate from this strict formula, and too often end up retreading a select few narrative trails.



Tower Of Strength | Author Wells Tower is good at writing about barbarous men and rampaging Vikings — but what else can he do? PHOTO BY SUZANNE BENNETT

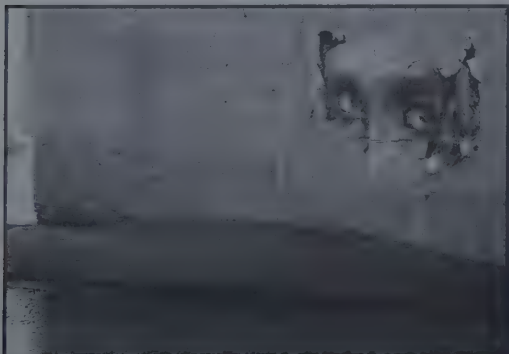
In "Retreat," a successful real estate agent invites his struggling artist brother to a mountainside cabin for the weekend, and they get in a fight. In "Executors of Important Energies," a man's stepmother and dementia-impaired father come visit him in New York, and they get in a fight. In "On the Show," a man moves to Florida to unwind at his new stepfather's estate, and they get in a fight. There's hardly a piece here that doesn't involve an ill-thought-out family reunion, a disastrous rural retreat, or both.

Tower also has a tendency to reiterate his symbolism in a way that's a little too on the nose. In "The Brown Coast," for example, about a man who starts filling an empty aquarium with exotic found ocean life after his wife leaves him, it's this: "Had he been born a sea creature ... he'd probably have been family to this sea cucumber, built in the image of sewage and cursed with a chemical belch that ruined every lovely thing that drifted near." Well-phrased? Undoubtedly. But attentive readers already saw the parallel.

Still, there are plenty of nice moments, and the stories that veer furthest off the defined path are also the most rewarding. "Retreat" has a well-timed reversal, where the real estate agent is slowly revealed to be not only morally smug but also a raving hypocrite, chastising his brother's living conditions when there's sawdust and exposed insulation all over his supposedly idyllic country getaway. "Wild America" tells a similar story of angst and retribution but from a teenage girl's perspective, and the weird and wonderful title

story jumps a few millennia into the past to shine a light on a group of slacker Vikings.

One female character sums up the collection's central dynamic when she tells two brawling men, her son and her new husband, "You're both barbarous idiots, as far as I'm concerned." Tower, on the other hand, is neither of those things. Despite his credentials, *Everything Ravaged* reads exactly like a debut, with all the mild disappointment and promise of future successes that term so often connotes.



A View From (Underneath) The Bridge | This image of art doggedly clinging to one of the pillars supporting the High Level Bridge is one of dozens of photos up for auction at See.Epic@53 this weekend at Latitude 53. PHOTO BY IAN JACKSON

ARTS NEWS • NOTABLE HAPPENINGS FROM THE THEATRE TO THE GALLERY

IN GOOD COMPANY!

SEE Goes On View

Are you a fan of photography? Proud to be Edmontonian? Willing to excuse some blatant self-promotion? You are? *Fantastic!* Because Arts News is just bursting to tell you about **See.Epic@53**, an exhibition running at Latitude 53 from May 21-23. It's a beautiful collection of the very best "intersections" photos — those are the candid images of everyday Edmonton life that appear on the final page of every issue of *SEE*, as taken by the staff of Epic Photography. You can even bid on your favourite photo in a silent auction, with proceeds going to the Edmonton Food Bank and Stollery Children's Hospital.

THE SPIRIT!

The Citadel Makes Itself Youthful

So young! So talented! So numerous! It's **Teens @ the Turn** time again, which means the corridors of The Citadel are ringing with the squeaky voices of talented adolescents. There are three big productions being staged this year from May 22-30: Sharmar MacDonald's Shakespeare spoof *After Juliet*; Simon Bent's street-life drama *Shelter*; and a teen-friendly PG-13 version of the musical *Rent* — but if you want to see these kids' creativity in its most undiluted form, be sure to check out the play reading series (May 22-23), or the **Teens @ the Turn Cabaret** (May 30). Find the full schedule at citadeltheatre.com.

LOST IN TRANSLATION!

No, Not Uncle Junior

How appropriate that L'Unitéthéâtre, Edmonton's leading francophone theatre company, is closing their 2008/09 season with **The Bald Soprano**, an absurdist comedy inspired by playwright Eugène Ionesco's attempt to learn English. (He borrowed much of the dialogue from the sample sentences in the textbook he was studying.) The play was considered wildly avant-garde when it premiered in 1950, but don't be intimidated: its style has been thoroughly absorbed into everyday pop culture, from Monty Python to Adult Swim cartoons. The show runs May 21-24 at La Cite Francophone (8627-91 St).

THEATRE REVIEW • BANG! • BY MICHAEL HINGSTON 1603 words

Step Right Up And Shoot A President!

ASSASSINS CHALLENGES AND DELIGHTS, EVEN IF ITS REACH ULTIMATELY EXCEEDS ITS GRASP

ASSASSINS

Directed by Clinton Carew. Book by John Weidman, music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Starring Joel Crichton, Jon Lachlan Stewart, Joshua Dalledonne, Paul Bellows. Timms Centre for the Arts (University of Alberta). To May 23 (7:30pm). Tickets available through TIX on the Square (420-175/tixonthesquare.ca).

★★★★☆

With a cast of 20 actors, a 12-piece orchestra underneath the stage, and a plethora of dangling props, disco balls, and pulsing light effects framing the edges, nobody would accuse MFA candidate Clinton Carew of underselling his production of *Assassins*, Stephen Sondheim's 1990 musical-for-people-who-don't-like-musicals. But when your subject is the various historical misfits who've tried to kill a U.S. president, as told through bombastic, tightly wound songs, ambition isn't just recommended; it's written into the piece's DNA.

Things get off to a tantalizing start, as two carnival barkers entice various passersby into their uniquely treacherous midway game: step right up,

try your luck, and shoot a president! Before long, a ragtag rogue's gallery has assembled, each would-be assassin simmering with his or her own internal demons, and the visual incongruity is delicious. There's an upper-class blowhard (Charles Guitau), an acerbic Italian immigrant (Giuseppe Zangara), a pink-clad housewife (Sara Jane Moore) and her hippie cohort (Squeaky Fromme), a bitter failed actor (John Wilkes Booth), an ultra-awkward introvert (John Hinckley), a factory worker-turned-anarchist (Leon Czolgosz), and a fat man in a Santa suit (Sam Byck). One big name is missing, but he'll make an appearance later on.

What do they have in common? In Sondheim and John Weidman's formulation, the assailants are all marks in the giant con known as the American Dream. They worked hard and paid their dues, but recognition kept eluding them; the land of the free kept upping its price. *Assassins* creates a grand narrative of misguided vigilante justice, where Booth's murder of Lincoln in 1865 sets the template that misfits for centuries to come would dutifully carry on.

But don't forget: this is a musical, and a jaunty one at that. So as Guitau approaches the gallows af-

ter killing President James Garfield in 1881 for not naming him ambassador to France he interrupts his solemn hymn to break out in jazz hands and do a little *saltshoe*. When Zangara tries and fails to kill FDR in 1933, a crowd of onlookers rush to a microphone to boast how they all personally saved the president's life — though the song is so dense, and actor Farren Timoteo's accent so thick, that most of the wordplay is completely lost.

Some of the songs fare better than others, mostly due to an unfortunate combination of a few weaker voices and a slightly too-loud orchestra. Neither Booth (Jon Lachlan Stewart) nor Guitau (Andrew McCreedy) command the stage the way they're meant to, and perhaps not coincidentally, both sing too quietly. The nameless hippie troubadour/quasi-narrator (Joel Crichton) fares much better, belting out his sly commentary with gusto. In terms of straight acting, my personal favourites are Tara Brodin as Moore, who has moments of Kristen Wiig-like brilliance while bumbling towards shooting Gerald Ford, and Paul Bellows as Hinckley. Reagan's would-be killer has the least material to work with of everyone, but Bellows oozes creepy desperation



"We'd Have Been Left Bereft Of FDR!" The cast of *Assassins* explains "How I Saved Roosevelt." PHOTO BY BEN LEMPHIER

even while standing still, pulling at his shirt cuffs.

The last act of the show hones in on Joshua Dalledonne's Lee Harvey Oswald, who is visited by all eight ghosts of assassination past and future while sitting in the soon-to-be-infamous Dallas book depository in 1963. Here the terrible legacy is revealed in full. Booth tells Oswald

that he's part of a larger chain, from Brutus in ancient Rome all the way down to Hinckley, who affirms that he read every available book on Oswald before plotting his own attack in 1981. It's a chilly but fitting ending, the playful intrigue of the material tempered by the recognition that this is a chain that will, in all likelihood, never end.



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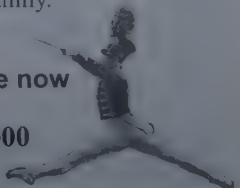
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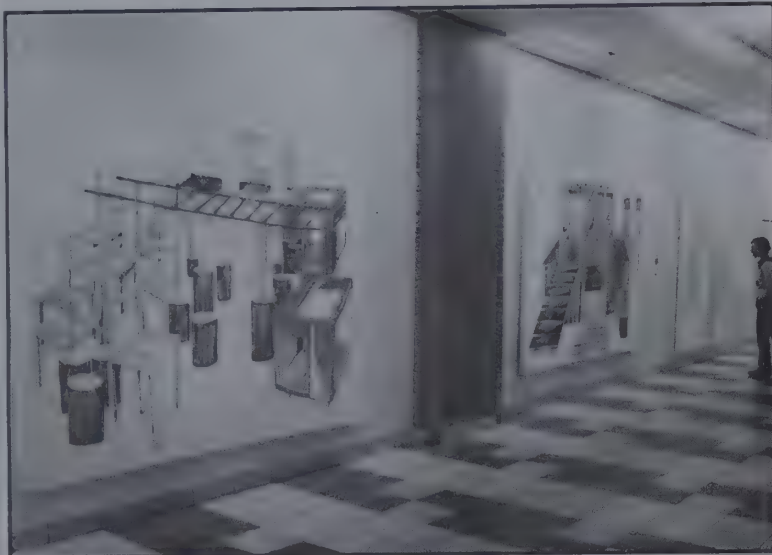
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CROSSTALK • VISUAL ARTS | 662 words

This Used To Be Our Playground

**I Call Oubs On The Monkey Bars!** | The paintings of Josée Aubin Ouellette have a way of climbing inside your imagination. PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSÉE MARIE OUELLETTE**ART BOX MANDY ESPEZEL & JILL STANTON
JOSÉE AUBIN OUELLETTE'S
ART EVOKES BYGONE CHILD-
HOOD ENVIRONMENTS ... BUT
WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN?**

This week, Jill and Mandy return to the YMCA, where Josée Aubin Ouellette is proudly presenting her precocious paintings of playgrounds as part of The YMCA Community Canvas WORKS initiative.

Mandy: The new paintings that Josée Aubin Ouellette has on display at the YMCA are large, colourful, transparent objects about objects. She's painted playgrounds and jungle gyms and environments that make you want to be in the picture climbing all over and within them. But her use of acrylic paint on muslin creates a kind of floating quality that seems to run counter to this physicality. What did you think of them, Jill?

Jill: I'm certainly drawn to the story behind this exhibition; Ouellette references the "adventure playgrounds" that were built during the Second World War as a way of sparking children's imaginations and instilling a subconscious aesthetic for beautiful architecture. Ouellette's paintings are life-sized, two-dimensional representations of these ideas.

Mandy: But do you think her representation of the idea is successful? I'm drawn to the works here that concentrate more on one or two specific visual elements, such as the wood grain patterning in "Adventure Playground, 1943" or the triangular repetition of colourful striping in "Drop City."

Jill: I think some of these works are more successful than others in that respect, for sure. In particular, I'm thinking of "Drop City," and maybe "Climbing Frame, 1928," which are less about creating playground-like environments and more about creating objects or environments that look like they might be played with. They are much more abstracted than their counterparts – especially "Drop City," where you're not entirely sure what you're looking at, especially if you don't know the background behind the piece. This figurative abstraction allows viewers to tap into their imaginations as they regard the image, which is an interesting nod to the playgrounds that inspired the exhibition in the first place.

Mandy: "Drop City" does stand out as one of the strongest in this five-piece series. I actually remember playing on structures like it when I was a kid – those big half-domes that are like hollow, metal turtle shells. And that link to memory is a pretty important ingredient in the experience these paintings give. They are nostalgic. As we were looking at this show, an elderly man walked by and stopped to look with us. I asked him what he thought of the show, and he said, "Reminds me of kids, and happiness. Too bad there aren't any little

heads popping up here and there." It's something I haven't really consciously considered about Ouellette's work before – the complete lack of people, or children, or "little heads."

Jill: Is that a bad thing, though? At least with these works, the lack of a human presence heightens the ambiguity of the structures, allowing more room for interpretation and "imagination." And these objects – playground structures in particular – are creations built specifically for people to use them. Do we assume these structures will host people at some point in the future, so we don't miss seeing them now? Or does the lack of people open up these objects to further ambiguity? Or do we just feel a lack when we look at them?

Mandy: I don't think it's a bad thing at all. I find it kind of bizarre that this is something I've always taken for granted about Ouellette's work, when it's a huge part of what she does. I think you're right about the lack of human representation opening up the interpretation of the structures. It also puts the viewer in an interesting positioning: we're the reason this playground structure is here, but we're no longer children, so we just get to quietly observe an image of it rather than physically play on it.

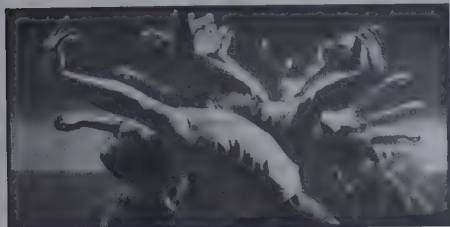
Jill: You're also not physically able to play on it, since it's a two-dimensional painting. I think that's partially Ouellette's intention; that is, I think she is purposely using this paradox to introduce her ideas of humans, imagination, communities, and environments.

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by Peter Quilter

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HIGHLIGHT • LITTLE HOME MOVIE ON THE PRAIRIE



Hey Bud, Let's Party! Just a couple of country bumpkins and a lot of "oregano." PHOTO BY MAN JACKSON

Buddy • Until May 24 • Roxy Theatre

Darin Hagen's new multimedia play is as achingly accurate a portrayal of growing up in rural Alberta as you can hope for. From hanging out at the 24-hour diner to smoking dope before hitting up the local fairgrounds, Jesse Gervais and Mark Jenkins hit backcountry adolescent life right on the nose. And for the record, Jesse — we love the Octopus too.

EXHIBITS

ANNUAL STUDENTS EXHIBITION AND SALE SPRUCE GROVE ART GALLERY, 35-5TH AVE, SPRUCE GROVE, TO MAY 23. Info: www.alliedarts.council.com.

BACK TO BASICS SNAP GALLERY, 10309-97 ST, TO MAY 30. Etchings by Marcelle Hanselaar. Info: www.snapartists.com.
THE BOX HARCOURT HOUSE GALLERY, 3RD FLR, 10215-112 ST, TO MAY 30. By Cesar Forero. Doors 8-7 p.m. Info: www.harcourthouse.ab.ca.

COMPLEXION STEPPES GALLERY, 1259-91 ST, TO JUN 1. Acrylic paintings by Joe Reimer. Contact Kelley Brent@bldg-inc.ca to schedule viewing.

CORNUCOPIA OF ARTS CENTRE D'ARTS VISUELS DE L'ALBERTA, 9103-95 AVE, MAY 22-JUN 3. Watercolours, oils, and pastels by five artists. Info: 461-3427.
EDMONTON: FROM LA BELLE PROVINCE WEST END GALLERY, 12308 JASPER AVE, TO MAY 21. Work by selected artists. Info: 488-4892.

ENTROPY HARCOURT HOUSE GALLERY, 3RD FLR, 10215-112 ST, TO MAY 30. Experimental paintings by Christine Koch. Info: www.harcourthouse.ab.ca.

FOLK ART GLENROSE HOSPITAL, MAIN FLOOR, 10230-111 AVE, MAY 25-JUL 4. Paintings by George Yoskask.
GLASS SOUL STEPPES GALLERY, 1259-91 ST, TO JUL 6. Acrylic paintings on glass by Manola Borjao. Contact Kelley Brent@bldg-inc.ca to schedule viewing.

HIROSHIGE ANDO: THE 53 STATIONS OF THE TOKAIDO ROAD ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA, #100, 10230 JASPER AVE, TO JUN 7. Series of Ukiyo-e woodblock prints from 1833-1834 by master printmaker Ando Hiroshige. Info: www.artgalleryalberta.com.

HIGH ENERGY PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY, 19 PERRON ST, ST. ALBERT, TO MAY 30. Works by St. Albert High School students. Info: 460-4310.

IDEAS FOR A CULTURAL CENTRE MULTICULTURAL CENTRE PUBLIC ART GALLERY, 5411-7 ST, STONY PLAIN, MAY 21-JUN 18. Presented by students from Memorial Composite High School.

KOSHASHIN: THE HALL COLLECTION OF 19TH CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHS OF JAPAN ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA, #100, 10230 JASPER AVE, TO JUN 7. One of the world's largest collections of early Japanese photography, featuring more than 230 rare photographs from 1860-1899. Japan. Info: www.artgalleryalberta.com.

MASTERPIECES IN MINIATURE PICTURE THIS GALLERY, 959 GORDIE RD, SHERWOOD PARK, TO MAY 21. Paintings, none of them larger than 11 by 14 inches, by more than 45 artists. Info: www.PictureThisGallery.com.

MEMBERS SHOW AND SALE SPRUCE GROVE ART GALLERY, 35-5TH AVE, SPRUCE GROVE, MAY 25-JUN 13. Art by the active members of the Allied Arts Council. Info: 962-0664.

MYSELF, THE PORTRAIT RED GALLERY, 9621 WHYTE AVE, TO AUG 30. A series of male self-portraits. Info: www.redgallery.ca.

NEW ART LOFT GALLERY, 590 BROADMOOR BLVD, SHERWOOD PARK, TO JUN 27. Every Thu and Sat until June 27. Info: 922-6324/449-4443.

OTHERWORLD ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA, #100, 10230 JASPER AVE, TO JUN 7. Kirsty Triner re-translates a medieval Japanese Noh play into audio, video and text. Info: www.artgalleryalberta.com.

PATHWAYS JEFF ALLEN GALLERY, STRATHCONA SENIORS CENTRE, 10031 UNIVERSITY AVE, TO MAY 28. By John Drew. Info: 433-5807.

RETURN TO HAIDA GWAIL SCOTT GALLERY, 10411-124 ST, TO MAY 26. Oil and watercolour paintings by Wendy Wacko. Info: www.scottgallery.com.

SOUNDSCAPES FAB GALLERY, FINE ARTS BUILDING, U OF A CAMPUS, TO JUL 4. Paintings by Kim Sala. Info: www.valberta.ca/ARTDESIGN/html/fab/index.html.

TRANSITIONS HOMEFIRE GRILL, 18210-100 AVE, TO JUN 30. Skyline and prairie paintings merged with fabric by Judi Pogham. Info: 488-7629.

URBAN TEXTURES MCMULLEN GALLERY, 8440-112 ST, TO JUN 14. Work based on a study of Winnipeg architecture. Info: 407-7572.

WILD THINGS MULTICULTURAL CENTRE PUBLIC ART GAL-

ERY, 5411-51 ST, STONY PLAIN, TO JUN 3. Mixed acrylic media on paper by James Trevelyan.

DANCE

GOTTA DANCE JUBILEE AUDITORIUM, 11455-87 AVE, MAY 24. Presented by Beaumont Society School of Dance. Doors at 2:30 p.m. Tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca.

THEATRE

ASSASSINS TIMMS CENTRE, 3-146 FINE ARTS BUILDING (UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA), TO MAY 23. Clinton Carew directs Stephen Sondheim's musical about the people who killed or tried to kill the President of the United States. Tickets: www.tixonthesquare.ca.

BUDDY ROXY THEATRE, 10708-124 ST, TO MAY 24. Bradley Moss directs Darin Hagen's multimedia comedy/drama about male friendship in rural Alberta. Tickets and info: 453-2440 or www.theatrework.ca.

LA CANTATRICE CHAUVÉ LA CITÉ FRANCOPHONE, 8627-91

ST, MAY 21-24. An off-the-cuff remark by a guest leaves a house party in a state of awkwardness and confusion in Eugene Ionesco's classic of avant-garde comedy. Tickets: \$23 at door or in advance 420-1757.

DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS MAYFIELD DINNER THEATRE, 16615-109 AVE, TO JUN 28. The Broadway musical about two down-at-heel con men living on the French Riviera who set out to fleece a wealthy but naive woman. Info: www.mayfieldtheatre.ca. Tickets: 483-4051.

FOOTLIGHT FESTIVAL WALTERDALE PLAYHOUSE, 10322-83 AVE, MAY 27 - JUN 6. A festival of one-act plays, many play readings, roundtable discussions, and variety shows celebrating the Walterdale's 50th anniversary season.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING AVENUE COMMUNITY CENTRE, 9210-118 AVE, MAY 22. Theatre Prospero presents Shakespeare's classic romantic comedy. Tickets: \$16 adults, \$12 students, available through TIX on the Square 420-1757. Info: 477-2773, ext.107.

NEVERMORE CATALYST THEATRE, 8529 GATEWAY BLVD, TO

MAY 24. Jonathan Christenson's dark musical journey about the life and literary career of Edgar Allan Poe. Info: www.tixonthesquare.ca.

QUEEN: IT'S A KINDA MAGIC JUBILEE AUDITORIUM, 11455-87 AVE, MAY 21. A theatrical recreation of the 1986 world tour of Freddie Mercury and Queen. Doors 8 p.m. Info: www.rtsandamajr.com.

ROMEO AND JULIET AVENUE COMMUNITY CENTRE, 9210-118 AVE, MAY 21. Theatre Prospero presents Shakespeare's classic tale of star-crossed lovers. Tickets: \$16 adults, \$12 students, available through TIX on the Square, 420-1757. Info: 477-2773, ext. 107.

SEXY GALS IN THE CITY JUBILEE DINNER THEATRE, WEM, 8882-170 ST, TO JUN 7. A spoof of TV's *Jim in the City*. Info: www.jubilations.ca/484-2424.

THE WIZARD OF OZ CITADEL THEATRE, 9828-101A AVE, TO MAY 24. Bob Baker directs L. Frank Baum's classic tale of the adventures of Dorothy and Toto. Tickets: 425-1820. Info: citadeltheatre.com.

COMEDY

BEST OF EDMONTON COMIC STRIP, BOURBON STREET, WEM. The best in Edmonton's comedy community. Every Tue. Doors 8 p.m. Info: www.thecomistrip.ca/483-5999.
DALE DOWNING COMEDY FACTORY, #408, 3414 GATEWAY BLVD, MAY 21. 23 Thu 8:30 p.m., Fri 8 p.m. and Sat 10:30 p.m. Tickets: 469-4999.

DRAKE WITHAM COMIC STRIP, BOURBON STREET, WEM, MAY 20-24. Thu and Sun 8 p.m., Fri and Sat 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Info: www.thecomistrip.ca/483-5999.

FUNNIEST PERSON WITH A DAY JOB FINAL COMIC STRIP, BOURBON STREET, WEM, MAY 26. Doors 8 p.m. Info: www.thecomistrip.ca/483-5999.

HIT #1 MISS MONDAYS COMIC STRIP, BOURBON STREET, WEM, Amateur comic. Doors 8 p.m. Info: www.thecomistrip.ca/483-5999.

HOWIE MILLER LAUGH SHOP, #1105 LONDON DERRY MALL, 137 AVE & 86 ST, MAY 23. Thu 8 p.m., Fri 7:45 p.m. and Sat 9:30 p.m. Info: www.thelaughshop.ca.

LARS CALLIEU COMIC STRIP, BOURBON STREET, WEM, MAY 27. Doors at 8 p.m. Info: www.thecomistrip.ca/483-5999.

THE LION'S HEAD PUB COMEDY NIGHT, LION'S HEAD PUB, 4404 GATEWAY BLVD. Professional and amateur comedians. No cover. Hosted by Lars Callieu every Sun at 9 p.m.

TIM KOSLO LAUGH SHOP, #1105 LONDON DERRY MALL, 137 AVE & 86 ST, MAY 27. Doors at 8 p.m. Info: www.thelaughshop.ca/483-5999.

IMPROV

CHIMPROV VARCONA THEATRE, 10329-83 AVE. Weekly improv show hosted by Rapid Fire Theatre. Every Sat except for last Sat of the month. Doors at 11 p.m. Info: www.rapidfiretheatre.com.

DIE-NASTY VARCONA THEATRE, 10329-83 AVE. An improvised soap opera directed by Dana Andersen. Every Mon at 8 p.m. Info: www.die-nasty.com.

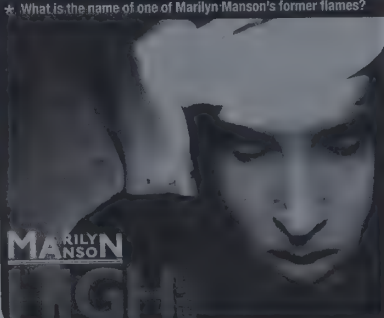
OH SUSANNA VARCONA THEATRE, 10329-83 AVE. Euro-style improv variety show. Last Sat of the month. Doors at 10:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10 at the door. Info: www.varsonattheatre.com.

PEOPLE IN PANTS IMPROV CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEEHOUSE, 9351-118 AVE. Weekly improv show first Thu of the month. Doors at 7:30 p.m. \$5 at the door.

THEATRESPORTS VARCONA THEATRE, 10329-83 AVE. Weekly improv show hosted by Rapid Fire Theatre. Every Fri. Doors at 11 p.m. \$10 at the door. Info: rapidfiretheatre.com.

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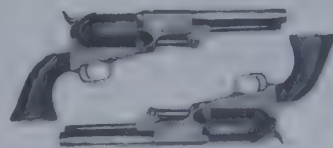
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If you like the idea of enjoying porn with your partner but aren't sure where to begin, Cory Silverberg, sex educator and one of the founders of

Toronto sex shop cooperative Come As You Are, has some suggestions. When straight couples come into the store wanting to buy or rent porn, the first thing he asks is what level of explicitness they are looking for. If they want something tamer, for example, he might point them to some of the female directors like Candida Royalle or Deborah Shames, whose films avoid genital close-ups and money shots.

As for the stereotype that women prefer their porn to have a plot, Silverberg responds, "Women have not been part of the market long enough to make generalizations about what they like. Wait 10 years, and we'll see where things are at. I do think that

women want videos where the women look like they are enjoying themselves." I actually think men would probably prefer this too.

Silverberg does admit that couples tend to go for plot when first venturing out. And in this department he recommends videos by director Paul Thomas. He's the main director for Vivid, the largest of the three biggies in adult video production. They rely on high production values and professional actors, which at least make for more consistent quality.

Andrew Blake's videos are very stylized and, to his benefit, he does away with most of the dialogue. Because let's face it: porn actors may be good at having sex onscreen but delivering lines — and usually bad ones at that — tends not to be one of their strengths. And people who have political issues with porn's exploitative nature can take comfort in the fact that Blake's actors get paid decently.

If you want something a little raunchier, Gregory Dark's videos are more hardcore. Patrick Collins, Rocco Siffredi, and John Leslie all produce stereotypical male-perspective hardcore porn. John Leslie used to be an actor in the business. "Imagine your basic leering man and you get a

sense of where his films come from," Silverberg notes.

Private is a European line, which means you'll see real boobs (80 per cent of North American porn starlets are surgically enhanced), hairier people, sweatier action, and more anal sex.

Amateur porn has become increasingly popular thanks to the Internet (it could also be a backlash against all the polished sex you see in professional porn) and the fact that anyone can turn a webcam on themselves while doing it and post it on the Internet. Things like the Buttman and Seemore Butts videos have turned amateur video into a professional genre where the directors use a point-of-view camera and film themselves having sex with women they "casually encounter." Safe to say, plot is not a priority here. Shayne's World videos, from a woman who worked with Seemore Butts, are targeted to young people and feature young, buff, tattooed and pierced actors who go snowboarding and have a lot of fun.

Some people still have a bit of a soft spot for '70s porn. There is something more playful about many of these videos. It's almost like they

knew the plotlines were cheesy and they played it up. Plus they're shot on film, so the lighting is better and the bodies are less plastic. Classics here include *Boogie Down With John Holmes*, *Deep Inside Ginger Lynn*, *Behind the Green Door* (star Marilyn Chambers recently died at age 56) and *Café Flesh*. Oddly, says Silverberg, many '70s videos were raunchier in content and included incest and rape scenes which have been edited out of the versions now available.

As with any cultural product you're developing a taste for, the important thing is to figure out what you like. "It doesn't have to be an all-or-nothing thing," Silverberg says. "You can like some of it; you can find some of it bad or even offensive. Or you can find it offensive and still get off on it. You also don't need to feel like you should be watching porn, like it's the cool thing to do. You can have a happy sex life without it. It is not required."

To see the winners of this year's Feminist Porn Awards, which were held in Toronto on Apr. 18, go to joseyvogels.com and click on My Messy Bedroom.

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Can Barflies Give Better Sex Advice Than Dan?



SAVAGE LOVE: DAN SAVAGE

THIS WEEK, DAN OUTSOURCES HIS RESPONSES TO THE DRUNKEN REGULARS AT HIS FAVOURITE BAR

Dear Readers:

I regard this column as a sacred trust. Your faith in my counsel and willingness to take me into your confidence moves and humbles me on a daily basis, and the seriousness with which I approach my chosen profession would normally prevent me from turning your letters over to a bunch of unruly drunks in a bar. But word somehow got around the bar where I retired to write this week's column, and the assembled drunks insisted that they be allowed to share their hard-earned wisdom with you. So I printed out a few of your letters on the bar's office printer — with names, e-mail addresses, and identifying details removed — and passed them around with pens and legal pads.

The *American Heritage Dictionary* defines "advice" as "an opinion about what could or should be done," and opinions, as St. Paul famously observed, are like assholes: everyone's got one (*Esophagans* 14:20). Please note that I don't endorse all of the asshole opinions below — particularly when murder is recommended — and rest assured that I will be drinking/writing/drinking elsewhere from now on.

My wife and I have been married for eight months, and I love her very much. However, we don't have sex much, maybe three times a month. We've seen a therapist a few times, and it hasn't changed anything. I still love her, but my needs haven't been met and I'm frustrated. Due to my frustration, I posted an ad on Craigslist — not to cheat but to just get some erotic interaction via the web. I only sent a few pictures back and forth. However, my wife found the e-mails. I apologized and said I never wanted to be with anyone but her, but that I just wanted to feel like I was desired. My wife has asked me to move out for a while, which I did.

Are we effed? I know what I did was horrible, but I want to make this marriage work. I love her, and I don't want this to end it.
Confused In Salt Lake

• "Since you live in Salt Lake, I'm go-

ing to assume that you didn't have sex with your wife before you got married [hic], and so it turns out that you and your wife are incompatible. Next time, try the milk before you buy the cow."

• "A lot of men make the mistake of initiating sex by just being like, 'Hey, let's fuck.' Try this: rub her shoulders, offer to make her a bath, give her a foot massage. Then eat her out, but don't ask for anything. Do this for two weeks. Show her that you want her to enjoy sex. If it doesn't work, sorry, you're fucked."

• "You have four separate problems that are now, through the magic of synergy, combined into one big one: Your wife's not into sex, you live in Utah, your wife made you move out, and you're using Craigslist. (What the fuck?) Time for some radical honesty: Tell her exactly how you feel and what you want. Insist she do the same. Don't censor. This will either finish burning your marriage to the ground or maybe — maybe — allow you to start dealing with each other like adults."

• "She asked you to move out. It's already over! HELLO!?"

I have a submissive side. My first dominant girlfriend would facet me for an hour; after she climaxed, she would ride me until she climaxed multiple times, and only then would she let me climax. Eventually we were doing cunnilingus after intercourse, but when she suggested it might be fun to add "more sauce" to the mix — bring another man into our play, and this other man's ejaculate — I dumped her. A similar thing happened in my next rela-

tionship. Do all dominant women think all male submissives are interested in bisexual behavior and being a cuckold?

There is a BDSM group in Washington, D.C., but the cohort for under-35s is tiny (I am under 30), and it's nothing but fat women. I don't want to pay, I work out, I have a salary, and I eat my lunch every day. I don't need to be looked after. I am totally self-reliant, but I nevertheless want to be completely dominated by a woman. If the right woman came along now, I would marry her and make her very happy.

Should I be more patient and let her find me, or should I find ways to put out more openly that I am a submissive?

Where Are The Monogamous Dominant Women?

• "Where are your social skills, douchebag?"

• "There is nothing less attractive than a 'sub' screaming, 'Top me, Mistress — but not if you're too fat or too poly or too old or if you actually have fantasies of your own or if you're going to order me to do something I don't want to do.' That's why you're not getting any action, dummy."

• "You suck. The end."

My partner and I are in our mid-20s and have been together since our teens. We have similar interests and compatible lifestyles. We make an awesome pair. Unfortunately, we are not sexually compatible. Over time we've grown closer regarding most things, except for sex. I've come to realize that I'm kinky and nonmonoga-

mous. My partner is decidedly not kinky, though she has said that if I slept with others, she would never want to know. That leaves a door slightly open.

I love her and am committed to the relationship, but I need some kink to be happy, and my out-ing myself as kinky has led to a steady deterioration in our vanilla sex life. Is it fair to put her on notice that I'll be kinking out as opportunities arise and deal with the fallout as we go?

Seeking Orderly Solution

• "She said she would 'never want to know.' That is not an open door. That's a double-shielded blast door with padlocks and a sign on it that says, 'Don't even think about it, motherfucker.'"

• "Putting her 'on notice' sounds kind of assholeish. Have the big, awful, stomach-clenching talk about

your future. It's not fair to either of you for you to have to stay monogamous and be unhappy. You need to figure this out."

• "You'll be unhappy for a few years if you leave her, but you'll be unhappy for the rest of your life if you stay."

• "WTF? Get rid of the shit. I'm not talking about 'leaving' her. She's likely to have some of your secrets. Kill her. Everything you need is a convenience store, shovel, lime, rope, large garbage bags, sympathy card for the family."

Thanks for the input and insight, assembled drunks. And for the record: Murder is wrong. Dump her, SOS, don't kill her.

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130. Coming Events

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1005. Help Wanted

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1500. Help Wanted - Alta.

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'Project Adult Literacy Society needs tutors volunteers for Math and English please call 780-424-5514

Volunteer at this summer's Free-will Shakespeare Festival from June 30 to July 26! All kinds of help needed! Call 780-425-8086 for details.

World Partnership Walk (www.worldpartnershipwalk.com)
Date on Walk City - Edmonton

Click Sunday May 31, 2009. Time 10:30 am. Alberta, Location Legislature Grounds

Duties of a Volunteer: see website
Number of Hours: see website

2001. Acting Classes

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2005. Artist to Artist

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2010. Musicians Available

Country lead guitarist available, also plays fiddle. Prefers older country. (780) 421-1250

2020. Musicians Wanted

3 piece rock band looking for 30+ male vocalist/rhythm guitar. Call 477-3708.

LEAD guitarist needed for Death/Black Metal band. Must have pro gear, be willing to tour and be 18+. Call 780-691-6915.

Looking for versatile drummer and singer for dynamic, progressive, original, heavy music band. Contact Aaron at (780) 474-7076

LookingEast seeks experienced Drummer able to start writing original music and also playing cover songs. Call Mark at 780-777-1188

Rhythm guitar player/singer looking for drummer to start writing original music and also playing cover songs. Call Mark at 780-777-1188

Semi pro cover band needs drummer. Top 40. Serious need only apply. Leave a message @ (587) 785-5655

STARTING instrumental band, in need of second guitarist, bass, and drums in 30's. Blues, fusion, rock, or anything. Possible vocals in future. Original and covers email: bbbf@yahoo.com

WANTED - Lead guitarist needed for semi-serious Edmonton-based indie pop/rock band. Backup vocals an asset. 1 must be 18+ and available most weekends. I must have own quality gear. Joe: joe.french@gmail.com

We need a "B&B" drummer. Must be pro. Please call (780) 995-6660

2200. Massage Therapy

HEALING TOUCH MASSAGE Relaxation and deeply nourishing. Whyte Avenue Area. Non sexual. 7 days. Alastair 780-405-8765

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3010. Auctions

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3210. Misc. For Sale

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3210. Misc. For Sale

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3400. Travel/Trade

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4310. Grain/Feed/Hay

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5003. Real Estate Misc.

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5110. Houses For Rent

Newly remodeled Single Family Home for Rent. 3BD/2BTH. Washer and dryer in house. Nice neighborhood. Pets and smoking allowed. \$100/monthly. Email: richard70@yahoo.com

5800. Manuf. Homes - Sale

2008 MODELS priced to sell. 16, 18 and 20 wide from \$79,900. Best priced homes in Alberta. A1 Homes Red Deer, 1-877-303-2244. Local 403-314-2244.

\$95,675, 1216 SQ. FT. Appliances, free delivery to 100 miles, blocking & leveling. \$5700. option package sacrifice pricing. Jandel Homes. 1-800-463-0084. www.jandelhomes.com

CROSS COUNTRY HOMES Spring homes from \$78,500. 20 wide homes from \$108,900. Affordable Manufactured and Modular Homes 780-470-8000 or www.crosscountryhomes.com

LAKE COTTAGES, 16' and 20' wide Modulars. All on sale. Best Buy Homes. Our name says it all. A1 Homes 1-877-275-5555. Red Deer 1-877-396-5564

ONLY 5 - 2008 manufactured homes left. Great savings. Prices start at \$79,900. 16 and 20 wide. Delivered included within 100 miles. Call Commonwealth Homes 1-800-341-6675.

5800. Manuf. Homes - Sale

USED 1995, 16' x 70' Excellent condition. New appliances. Dual flush toilets. Laminate & tile floors throughout. \$63,000 delivered within 200 miles. New 16', 18', 20' wide. Starting at \$69,900. Limited quantity Call now! A-1 Homes, Airdrie, Alberta, 1-866-907-0503

WHY RENT Own a new SRI home for as little as \$4500 down with payments of only \$550/month. OAC Check out the values on the clearance of our remaining 2008 homes. Alberta Custom Homes, Red Deer, 1-800-347-5590.

WHY SPRING CLEAN it's time to custom design your new home. Your vision, your colour and the savings in your pocket. 16' wide starts at \$82,000. 20' wide at \$86,700. Call Pleasant Homes today at 780-938-3584 or 1-866-962-0238

6100. Cars

#1 IN CREDIT Rebuilding. Need a car, truck, van or SUV? Auto credit fast. Bad credit? No credit! Bankruptcy? Repossession? No problem. Call today and drive away. Call Stephanie 1-877-792-0599. Free delivery anywhere - www.autocreditfast.ca

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BOW VALLEY FORD Camrose, Alberta. Used F250 SuperCab XLT, 4.7L 4m, was \$57,450. Now \$36,900. Used 80 Explorer LTD, 18,202 km, was \$60,744, now \$45,900. Used Edge Ltd. AWD, 15,824 km, was \$45,824, now \$30,900. Call 403-678-6200. Sales now!

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SAVE UP TO \$400 on your car insurance. Clean driving record? Call Grey Power today at 1-866-428-0890 for a no-obligation quote. Open weekends.

6400. Recreational Vehicles

ENTIRE REMAINING Fleetwood inventory purchased by Woody's. Factory fresh all 2009's! Bonda, Fiesta, Southwind, Boulder, Excursion, Revolution, Providence, Ciera & several models. Over 50 motorhomes arriving daily. Massive savings! Visit today, Woody's RV World, Edmonton - Red Deer - Calgary. www.woodysv.com. All brands not offered in all locations.

7205. Psychics

LOVE! MONEY! Life! #1 Psychist! 1-877-478-4410. Credit cards/deposit \$3.19/minute. 18+. 1-900-783-3800. www.mysticalconnections.ca

7245. Misc. Services

\$500. LOAN SERVICE, by phone, no credit refused, quick and easy, payable over 6 to 12 installments. Toll Free 1-877-786-1660.

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7245. Misc. Services

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DEBT STRESS? Consolidate and lower payments by 30 - 40%. End those phone calls and the worry. Avoid bankruptcy. Contact us for a no-cost consultation. On-line: www.mydebtsolution.com or toll free 1-877-556-3500.

9005. Personals

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††† ALL HOT SEXY BABES ††† talk dirty After Hours! 18+ ††† Call NOW! Try It FREE! ††† 780-665-0808 ††† 403-313-3330

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9420. Adult Services

Brown Sugars 681-10451, 780-430-9112 THE ORIGINAL #1 For Black Girls! 20yrs experience www.brownsugars.ca

9160. Adult Personals

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9450. Adult Massage

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9450. Adult Massage

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ASTROLOGY • MAY 21-27 • BY THE KID

CRUISIN' THE COSMOS

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)

You're no joker, you get the message. It's time to lay your cards out on the table, no matter what you're holding in your hand. Yep, it's the moment of truth where you gotta show them yours as they show you theirs. Don't be nervous, though. Despite all that huffin' and puffin', it ought to be obvious they're only bluffing!

CANCER (June 21 - July 22)

So things aren't too steady right now. So what? The Earth is wobbling wildly, so why shouldn't everything on its surface be a lil' bit shaky too? It's just like walking through the room with moving floors in a funhouse. It may take longer than usual thanks to an awkward stride, but you will get to the door on the other side!

LEO (July 23 - August 22)

Whoa there, you ferocious feline! You're pretty quick on the draw but if you swipe the wrong cat you might wind up decalwed. Then you'd be pretty near helpless, wouldn't you? Instead of pouncing, you should be peepin' your prey instead. Otherwise it might be you that ends up with something to dread!

VIRGO (August 23 - September 22)

Well, it's all starting to happen. Everything's comin' together. The zodiac's favourite lass has got horse-shoes coming out her ass and you've never had more energy than you do now. See what happens when you're happy with yourself, even for just a little while? Now go look in the mirror and flash yourself the biggest smile you've got and strike that iron! While it's still hot!

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22)

What are you doin' Libra? You ain't no snake in the grass. You're born under the sign of high class! You don't need shady deals to get you some meals. Your symbol is a scale you shouldn't have any doubt that, while things are hard now, it'll all even out!

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21)

Ahh, the good life. Don'tcha just love it? Well, you'd better. What goes up must come down, and some jealous jackass out there is gonna do your best to pop your balloon and send it plummeting to Earth. For what it's worth, you can't really blame 'em. It was supposed to be theirs!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 21)

Don't bitch about it and don't try to blame anybody else either. Whether you believe it or not, what you asked for you got. Sure, it may mean a lot more work, but if you give up now you'll just look like a jerk. Why act like a clown and stop diggin' when the treasure chest is only a few more feet down?

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 19)

Got it all figured out, huh Einstein? Yeah, well so did Albert. The big problem is that his bright idea may have solved a long-standing theoretical quandary but it put the world in greater jeopardy than it had ever been in before. What's yours gonna do?

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18)

As forward thinking as you are, you sure seem to be stuck in the past. Some folks say that the devil you know is better than the one you don't. Hell, what difference does it make? The devil is the devil. If you liked the old one, wait till you get a load of the new one!

PISCES (February 19 - March 20)

Sometimes, love, it don't come easy. That's why every once in a while you gotta be sneaky to get some. All's fair as they say, so pull out the stops and set yourself a bunch of booty traps. Sooner or later someone will step right in and you'll have them before they even know what hit them!

ARIES (March 21 - April 19)

Some folks think you rams are selfish 'cause you're your No. 1 concern. But who else is gonna look after you? You make your own opportunities and you succeed at them because of your initiative and hard work. If anybody understands that if you want something done you gotta do it yourself, it's you. That's no selfish lie — it's efficient and true!

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)

Well, this week there's good news and bad news. The good is you'll be supremely successful and have riches beyond any of your wildest dreams. The bad news is it'll be even harder than it seems since that means you'll have to get off your almost permanently parked patootie to procure it. Don't worry, you can endure it!

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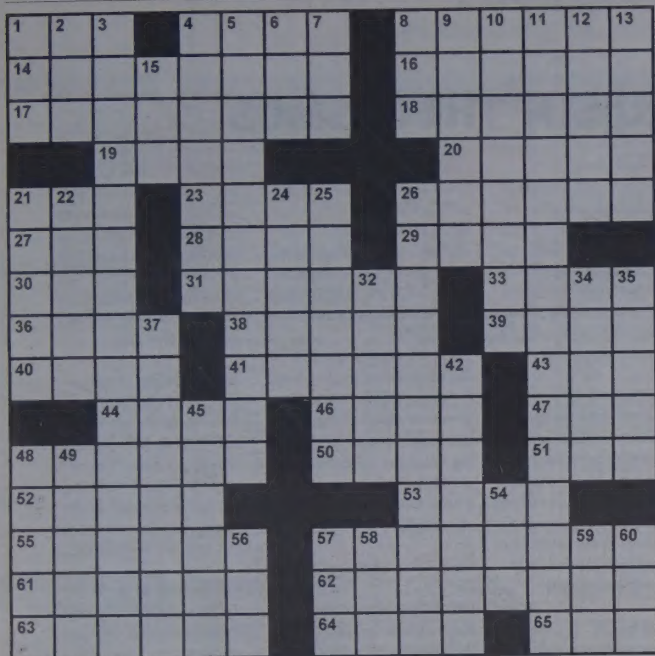
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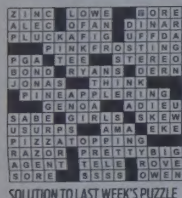


ACROSS

- 1 "Te _"
- 4 Springsteen title starter
- 8 What software may be stored on
- 14 Burlesque routine
- 16 Campfire snack
- 17 Green side
- 18 Crone, disparagingly
- 19 Wile E. Coyote's supplier
- 20 Back off
- 21 NASCAR _
- 23 Premium used in exchange rates
- 26 Size of some garages
- 27 Actress Smart
- 28 Unable to choose
- 29 Ark man
- 30 Spare bit?
- 31 " _ a Hammer"
- 33 Fish in a 2003 film
- 36 Thursday daydreamer's acronym
- 38 National auto body chain
- 39 Poetry competition
- 40 Bangalore wrap
- 41 Get the sleeping bag ready
- 43 What rock fans may dig
- 44 "Consum it!"
- 46 Shag carpet feature
- 47 Tractor-trailer
- 48 Wretched, as poverty
- 50 Jet-black rock
- 51 Irish, e.g.
- 52 Be a sponge
- 53 Mr. _ (Coke's answer to Dr Pepper)
- 55 Reverberating
- 57 It may be caused by stress
- 61 Grouped together
- 62 Diverts traffic
- 63 Say with confidence
- 64 Memo header, for short
- 65 Pinnacle

DOWN

- 1 Div. that lost Super Bowls XIX-XXXI
- 2 Figure seen at Tiananmen Square
- 3 Where signs of visiting prostitutes are most frequent in the aviary?
- 4 Rice variety
- 5 Where a flea might hang out?
- 6 Victrola maker
- 7 Brand-spanking _
- 8 Naval tech. specialist
- 9 It preceded Roosevelt
- 10 Rice partner
- 11 Where you're likely to find three-day-old undies?
- 12 Mazda roadster
- 13 Silver Bullet Band leader Bob
- 15 It may get the last photo in the calendar: abbr.
- 21 Game with a 20 at the top of the board
- 22 1980s home computer
- 24 _ Jaya (Indonesian territory)
- 25 Where you'll find blond, curly hair, an overcoat, and a horn?
- 26 Where to show where the bad man touched you?
- 32 Flip _
- 34 Callender in the frozen food aisle
- 35 Z's Greek counterpart
- 37 It penalizes obstruction of hydrants
- 42 Dictionary
- 45 More needing a bath, perhaps
- 48 Single-celled organism: var.
- 49 Mouths, in Mazatlan
- 54 A/C stat
- 56 Summer hrs. in Minneapolis
- 57 Title for Italian monks
- 58 Emeritus: abbr.
- 59 _ Speedwagon
- 60 Sense tested with Zener cards



SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

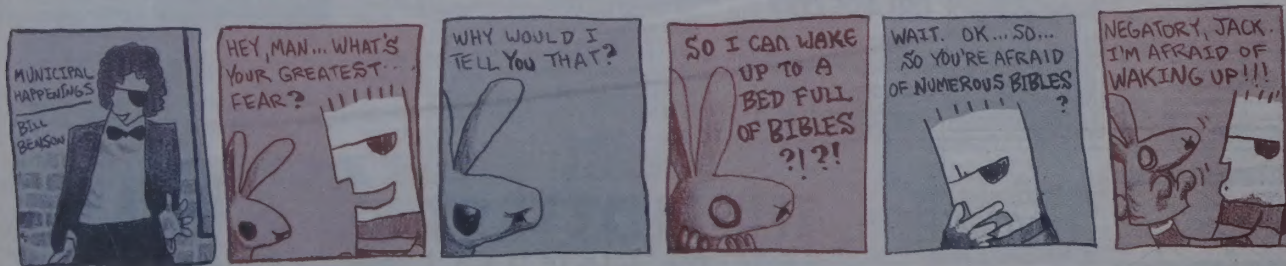
MOVIN' ON UP

DELUXE APARTMENT OR NOT, WE'RE GETTING THERE!

JONESIN' CROSSWORD BY MATT JONES

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INTERSECTIONS • PHOTOS OF OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS



t5j

Edmonton blues scene staple Rusty Reed blows his harp at The Rose and Crown Pub downtown.
PHOTO BY IAN JACKSON

ARCHIVE DIVE • SEE REVISITED • MAY 29, 2008 • ISSUE 757

EDMONTONIA Best morning radio show Best radio personality Best TV weather person Best TV news anchor Best local TV station Best local radio station Best cultural institution Best use of taxpayers' money Most effective local politician Most useful local website Favourite Edmontonian Best local athlete Best local musical act Most creative Edmontonian Best new trends Worst new trends Scariest intersection Best place to people watch Best place to take visitors Sexiest Edmonton male Sexiest Edmonton female **GETTING OUT** Best dance club Best live venue Best bar Best neighborhood food pub Best gay bar Best comedy club Best karaoke bar Best place to shoot pool Best gym Best place to get pampered Best internet café Best yoga studio Best place to skateboard Best place to pick someone up Swankiest bathrooms Skankiest bathroom Best art gallery Best live theatre venue Best local golf course Most comfortable movie theatre Best place to get a pint Best spa **EAT/DRINKS** Best fries Best poultry Best burger Best pizza Best old standby Best pierogies Best seafood Best coffeehouse Best vegetarian Best patio Best place to watch sports Sexiest bar servers Sexiest bartender Best bar service Best Indian Best Korean Best Canadian Best Japanese Best Italian Best Greek Best Chinese Best Mexican Best Thai Best Vietnamese Best desserts Best organic food store Best bakery Best deli Best steak house Best hair salon Best dining Best breakfast Best martini Best late-night eats **SHOPPING** Best clothing store Best wine store Best shopping district Best place to buy vinyl Best record store Best DVD store Best independent record store Best computer store Best toy store Best home decor store Best women's clothing store Best independent store Best vintage clothing store Best hair stylist/salon for women Best furniture store Best outdoor gear Best piercing studio Best interior design Best yoga gear Best consignment store Best kitchen store Best laundromat Best organic supermarket Best jewellery store Best lingerie store Best fetish wear Best sex supply store Best adult video store

BSE
BEST OF EDMONTON

and the winners are ...

WED 10 2008
ISSUE 757

“To shrug our collective shoulders and leave this for future generations to solve, if they can, is irresponsible.”

PETER JOHNSTON, FORMER DEPUTY LEADER OF THE ALBERTA GREEN PARTY, WROTE A GUEST COLUMN ON THE DANGERS OF BUILDING A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN NORTHERN ALBERTA FOR SEE'S MAY 29, 2008 ISSUE

So far no one has come up with an absolutely fool-proof way to store the highly radioactive waste for the hundreds of thousands of years necessary for it to become harmless. The U.S. government is trying to complete an enormously expensive storage

site deep under a mountain in Nevada. However, that site is facing protracted legal problems and may never be used. Nuclear supporters say that the solution for permanent storage of this highly dangerous waste will be found in due course. In the meantime the amount of waste keeps on growing. To shrug our collective shoulders and leave this for future generations to solve, if they can, is totally irresponsible.

Besides, Alberta is very fortunate to have a viable alternative that burns no fuel, either fossil or renewable. Deep well geothermal is the way to go. Alberta does not need nuclear energy.

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